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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Maghreb Union Foreign Ministers Meet in Rabat

Libya's Al-Talhi Attends

LD2910164689 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, arrived in Rabat this afternoon to participate in the first meeting of the Council of Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers, which will begin in Rabat tomorrow, Monday [30 October].

Upon his arrival at Rabat-Sale airport, the Libyan official made a statement in which he expressed his joy at being in Morocco. He praised the efforts being made by His Majesty King Hassan II to build institutions for the AMU.

Regarding the first meeting of the Council of AMU foreign ministers, 'Azzuz al-Talhi expressed confidence in the success of this meeting, especially in view of the attention that will be given to it by His Majesty King Hassan II and his government. He said that the meeting will constitute an important step on the march toward building the union, which embodies the aspirations of the peoples of the Arab Maghreb countries and the political will of the leaders of these countries.

Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi was met at the airport by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Abdellatif Filali, and a number of personalities.

Algeria's Ghozali Takes Part

LD3010120289 Algiers APS in English 1004 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, 30/10/89 (APS)—Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali is in Rabat since Sunday evening where he will take part in the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Union of the Arab Maghreb.

He told the press at his arrival that the Maghreb foreign ministers will assess what has been realized up till now, examine future prospects and adopt a common concept concerning relations of the Union of the Arab Maghreb with other regional and international groups.

Foreign Ministers Council Meets

LD3010144589 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The proceedings of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] Foreign Ministers Council began in Rabat this morning in accordance with Article 8 of the Marrakech Treaty. This article stipulates that the Foreign Ministers Council will prepare for the UMA Presidential Council's meeting and examine the issues submitted by the follow-up committee and the specialized ministerial committees.

The agenda of this first 2-day session includes assessing the results of the UMA's actions, defining the tasks of the specialized ministerial committees, and discussing the UMA's relations with the other regional groupings, particularly the Arab and African groupings and the European Community.

The participants are expected to endorse at the end of this session the recommendations which will be presented to the Presidential Council. The Presidential Council, which is made up of the leaders of the UMA's member states, will meet in Tunis in the near future. [passage omitted]

Report on Ministers' Decisions

LD3110140189 Rabat MAP in English 1233 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, Oct 31 (MAP)—The Council of Foreign Ministers of member countries of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) convened here Monday to draw the balance sheet of the activities of the Maghreban union and identify the policy to be followed vis-a-vis other regional groupings.

This meeting, the council's first since the creation of UMA last February in Marrakech, gathered the foreign ministers of Algeria Ahmed Sayed Ghazali, of Libya Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, of Mauritania Cheikh Ahmed Ould Dada, of Morocco Abdellatif Filali and of Tunisia Abdelhamid Escheikh.

The session decided to promote UMA's relations with other Arab and African groupings and stressed the importance of UMA-EEC relations and the need to further consolidate them in the interest of the two communities, Filali said at the end of the meeting.

The foreign ministers' council also decided the setting up of four specialized commissions, Filali said adding that top priority was granted to the commission in charge of food security. The other commissions the council decided to set up are the commission of financial and economic matters, the commission for the consolidation of basic infrastructure, and the commission in charge of human resources. Maghreban countries have thus decided to upgrade their cooperation in these sectors and to promote their integration with a view to efficiently face development problems, Filali said announcing that the UMA judiciary body will be set up shortly.

The decisions made by the UMA ministerial council will be submitted to the upcoming Maghreban summit slated to be held in Tunis next January.

Council's Final Communique

LD3110181589 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Final communique issued at the conclusion of the first meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union held in Rabat 29-30 October]

[Text] In accordance with Article 8 of the treaty on the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union, the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union held its first meeting in Rabat, in the Kingdom of Morocco, on 28 and 29 Rabi' al Awwal 1410, corresponding to 29 and 30 October 1989.

His Majesty King Hassan II, the chairman of the Union, received the members of the council and gave them his august directives during the working session which his majesty held with them.

The council dealt in its discussions with the progress made in establishing the institutions, installing the apparatuses of the union, and starting their missions.

The council also reviewed the main official or popular rallies which were held at the maghreb level. Afterward, the council dealt with setting up the specialized ministerial commissions and approved the adoption of a draft resolution submitted by the commission for follow-up and the general secretariat related to the setting up of the following four specialized commissions: the Commission for Food Security, the Commission for Economy and Finance, the Commission for Basic Infrastructure, and the Commission for Human Resources.

In this framework and on the basis of the priority attention given to food security, the freedom of movement and settlement of persons, and human resources, the Council recommended that a meeting be held of the Commission for Human Resources and Food Security before the end of this year.

Regarding the issue of the relations of the union with the other regional groupings and with regard to the Arab groupings, the council affirmed the Arab dimension of the union and the mutual reciprocity and single destiny which it shares with the Arab groupings.

With regard to the African dimension of the union, the council stressed the strong and deep-rooted ties and common destiny that it shares with the African countries.

As for the EEC, the council stressed the fact that the dialogue with this community should be integrated with the bilateral dialogue and the Arab-European dialogue, and that a suitable framework for this dialogue and mechanisms suitable for consultation and coordination between the members of the Union should be laid down.

The members of the council exchanged views on the points to be included in the agenda of the proceedings of the forthcoming presidential council.

At the end of their meetings, the members of the council expressed the consideration, respect, and deep thanks to the Kingdom of Morocco, its king, government, and people for the warm welcome and hospitality.

Foreign Ministers Depart Rabat

LD3110154489 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The foreign ministers of Mauritania, Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya left Morocco this morning after taking part in the first session of the Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers' council. At Rabat-Sale airport the foreign ministers made statements in which they were unanimous on the significance and success of this meeting and the positive results achieved.

Arab Maghreb Union News Agency Pool Begins

LD3110183389 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Beginning tomorrow, Wednesday 1 November, the pool of the Arab Maghreb Union's news agencies will begin to broadcast its daily bulletin in accordance with the decision adopted by the conference of directors of the union's news agencies during its first session held 23-24 October in Rabat. The pool was set up during the conference. Each of the five Maghreb news agencies will broadcast five news items with special numbers and with the signature sign of the agency and the symbol of the pool.

Paper Says Hizballah Associate Behind Plane Attack

NC3110182989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Paris, 31 Oct (MENA)—The French paper LE FIGARO today reports that available leads indicate that PLO dissidents were behind the attack against the French DC-10 passenger plane which crashed in Nigeria [as received] on 19 September, killing 171 passengers.

According to the paper, the operation was engineered, if not also perpetrated, by a man known as Abu-Ibrahim. He used to act as an aide to Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] but now works for Shiite Hizballah in Lebanon.

The paper notes that the briefcase which contained the explosives was of the same type used in an attack on the Paris Marks and Spencer in February 1985. About 300 grams of pentarit [as received] in paper form were placed inside the briefcase which was put on board the plane in Brazzaville. A timing device controlled the detonation.

According to LE FIGARO, the motivations for the operation are still under investigation.

'Important Discovery' Reported

AB0111064289 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1830 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The investigation into the explosion of the UTA DC-10 aircraft over Tenere is continuing. The French secret services have just made an important discovery. For more details here is Pierre Choitillou in Paris:

[Begin Choitillou recording] The debris of the suitcase in which the UTA DC-10 bomb was placed has talked. It is

a Samsonite attache case with double depth lining in which layers of pentryl, 150 to 300 grams, had been deposited, with a simple quartz alarm watch for a detonator to automatically set off the explosion at a fixed altitude—10,000 meters, it appears.

Now it happens that this suitcase is the same type as that used in Paris in February 1985 in the attack against the English store Marks and Spencer. The casualty figures at that time were 1 dead and 14 wounded. The perpetrator of that attack, who was arrested 1 year later, is named (Habib Amal). Now, while he was awaiting sentencing, he talked. He is a member of the dissident group of the PLO led by one (Abu Ibrahim). The latter is not unknown to either the French secret services or to the American CIA. He is a former Fatah militant, violently opposed to Yasir 'Arafat, sometimes pro-Iranian and sometimes pro-Syrian. He is a professional at crime, under the flag of the Hizballah, or at least under one of its factions.

Now, this specialist in actions against airplanes enjoys a real network of complicity in Europe, mainly in France, England, and Germany, but also among the Lebanese Shiite community established in Africa. In this hideaway exists a real arsenal of illegally supplied passports, but also attache cases, and especially reserves of pentryl always ready to be used.

So the conclusion is: At this stage of the investigation, (Abu Ibrahim) must be somewhere in Beirut. He is believed to have acted alone, on his own initiative, without following the directives for a truce issued by Damascus and Tehran. It was therefore an isolated act, but which nevertheless killed 171 persons in the Tenere Desert. [end recording]

Details of Mubarak-Al-Qadhdhafi Talks Reported

PM0111104289 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 31 Oct 89 p10

[Unattributed report: "Story of Mubarak-Al-Qadhdhafi Meeting"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned that King Hassan II of Morocco made great efforts to ensure that the meetingbetween President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi took place. The meeting, which was supposed to take place right after the Casablanca summit conference, was delayed and faced a number of obstacles related to formalities, but these were later overcome.

The two leaders discussed U.S.-Libyan relations, and President Mubarak expressed satisfaction with Col al-Qadhdhafi's moderate and balanced foreign policy. Mubarak confirmed that he would make intensive efforts to improve Libya's relations with Britain and the United States.

Meanwhile at Arab level, Egyptian sources have told AL-MAJALLAH that the two main issues in the Egyptian-Libyan talks were the Palestinian question and the Lebanese crisis. On the Palestinian question, Mubarak asked the Libyan leader to encourage the PLO's moderate line and give the PLO the chance to steer the Palestinian ship to the shore of peace with Israel.

The two sides agreed that while each side is entitled to stick to its opinion, this should not affect bilateral relations between the two countries and should not lead to a media war between them.

On the Lebanese question, it transpired from the discussions that there was a need to intercede with Syria to persuade it to be more flexible on the al-Ta'if meeting.

AL-MAJALLAH has learned that Col al-Qadhdhafi promised President Mubarak that he would visit Syria to discuss the resumption of Syrian-Egyptian relations and try to find a compromise formula for a meeting between al-Asad and Mubarak. The colonel said he was prepared to host such a meeting in his tent in the Libyan desert near Tripoli.

Both countries' authorities will start working, at ministerial and committee level, for implementation of what was agreed between the two leaders. Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has sent an official invitation to his Libyan counterpart 'Umar al-Muntasir to visit Egypt to announce the formation of a joint Egyptian-Libyan committee. It was also agreed that that five Libyan ministers would visit Egypt in November. President Mubarak instructed 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, chairman of the National Democratic Party's development committee, to discuss cooperation between the two countries in relation to Egyptian workers' participation in Libyan construction projects.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Hurani on Soviet Stand; Urges European Role

NC0111155489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—'Abdallah al-Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member, has criticized the two superpowers' stand on the Palestinian issue. In statements to MENA, Al-Hurani called for an advanced Arab-European-Soviet role to bring pressure to bear on the United States and Israel. The Palestinian official described the Soviet stand as much less than expected, adding: We in the PLO sometimes feel that the Palestinian people's hopes and aspirations, which were reflected in the distinguished relations between the two sides, are no longer reflected in the Soviet stands. However, he expressed the conviction that this might be the result of internal Soviet factors or factors in the western camp.

In his statements, Al-Hurani said that the Soviet envoy with whom Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat recently met in Tunis brought nothing new. He noted that during the talks with the Soviet envoy, the Palestinians demanded that efforts be made by the Soviets and

Europe, as all efforts should not be focused on the U.S. Administration apart from the other active states.

The Palestinian official went on to say that with regard to the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, the PLO insists that this dialogue should be sponsored by the international community and should not be conducted away from the United Nations and the international community so that the U.S. Administration alone would not monopolize the solution. In this regard, Al-Hurani stressed the need for utilizing the European role in coordination with the Soviet role to put international pressure on the United States and Israel. He pointed out that European tripartite committee's upcoming visit to the Middle East, Cairo, and Tunisia could be an opportunity for the Arabs to press for a more effective European role.

In his statements to MENA, Al-Hurani pointed out that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has not achieved tangible results despite the Palestinians' sincere desire for peace, stressing that it is the United States which impedes the promotion of this dialogue. He added: We always try to discuss vital issues and peace steps with the United States. We even proposed that a declaration of principles containing the basis for peace be issued. The Palestinian official went on to say: We asked the United States to include in the declaration of principles the remarks made by President Bush and Secretary of States James Baker with regard to terminating the occupation and land for peace. We also asked the United States to include UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the right of Israel and all the region's states to live in peace and security, the international peace conference, and the political rights of the Palestinian people. We also asked the United States for the Palestinian people's political rights to be interpreted as the right to self-determination. And when the peace principles are approved, we will move toward implementing the peace measures.

The Palestinian official maintained that the United States has always been evasive on the pretext that the declaration of principles would not facilitate the peace process but would obstruct the issue and that the road toward promoting the peace process should begin with both minor and major issues. He pointed out that the minor and major issues, according to the U.S. views, represent Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan, which is rejected by the PLO.

In his statements to MENA, Al-Hurani said that the election plan in the occupied territories as proposed by the Israeli prime minister is in fact a U.S. plan, not an Israeli one. This is based on the fact that the United States proposed the issue of elections in the first session of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in December 1988 while the Shamir plan was proposed in May 1989. He emphasized that the United States sought to use Shamir's election plan to circumvent the Palestinian peace plan, which enjoyed international support.

Continuing his remarks, the PLO Executive Committee member said that the objective of Shamir's plan is to place obstacles before any European initiative and to prevent international pressure from being imposed on the United States and Israel.

Commenting on the idea of holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, 'Abdallah al-Hurani said that the PLO has approved this dialogue as a preliminary and preparatory step to facilitate the start of negotiations within the framework of the international peace conference. He pointed out that the PLO deals with any proposed peace initiative according to firm principles—the PLO is alone concerned with the formation of the Palestinian delegation. He added that the dialogue agenda is open to include all fateful Palestinian issues, not only the issue of elections as the Israelis wish. Al-Hurani reiterated that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue is not an alternative to the international framework and should take place within the framework of international legality and be a prelude to convening the international peace conference on the basis of the UN resolutions.

The PLO official called for speeding up Arab moves in the international arena in support of the Palestinian peace initiative. He pointed in this regard to the importance of having formed the Arab committee headed by Moroccan King Hassan II on the Palestinian issue after the emergency Arab summit in Casablanca.

Alluding to the intifadah and its effects on Israeli society, Al-Hurani said interactions are taking place within Israeli society and its military establishment, making the intifadah an issue every Israeli citizen discusses daily. The interactions, he added, have also been caused by the Palestinian peace initiative and international moral support for the Palestinian people's cause. He stressed that a strong Arab stand in the international arena will certainly serve the cause.

Further Reportge on Palestinian-Soviet Meetings

LD3110214989 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The talks held by the deputy Soviet foreign minister for Middle Eastern affairs, Comrade G. Tarasov, with the Palestinian leadership in the last few days in Tunisia, especially his exhaustive talks with Brother President leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], came within the context of the continuing Palestinian-Soviet coordination, and cooperation between the PLO and the Soviet Union on the means for a just and lasting settlement in the Middle East, on which Palestinian and Soviet points of view agree. The Soviet Union continually calls for the convening of an international peace conference with the participation of all the parties to the conflict in the Middle East, including the PLO, sole legitimate representative of Palestinian people, in addition to the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The continuing Palestinian-Soviet meetings are of great importance, importance which is derived from the nature of the developments in the international arena,

which suggest that the coming weeks and months carry developments which might be decisive at the level of the Palestinian cause, especially in the light of the European move which the foreign ministers of the EEC troika intend to make in order to break the stalemate and give an impetus to the peace process in the Middle East.

Thus in the light of the intentional U.S. laxness in giving an impetus to the peace process, so that it achieves its desired objectives, we see in the current Soviet move an objective introduction to the negative U.S. attitude to the issue of achieving peace in the region; and in addition it constitutes a clear indication of the certain Soviet desire to give an impetus to the peace process, especially, so that this desire is in harmony with the European desire expressed by French President Mitterand in his speech to the European parliament a few days ago in Luxembourg.

The Soviet Union and the countries of Western Europe are called upon to do something to overcome the obstacles placed by Tel Aviv and Washington in the path of the peace process. The march toward a just and lasting peace should not be at the mercy of the will of Washington and the zionist occupation, which contradicts the desire of the international community.

Tarasov Says Talks 'Useful'

LD3111224989 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] G.P. Tarasov, assistant to the USSR foreign minister and special envoy on Middle Eastern affairs, who is in Tunisia to continue Palestinian-Soviet contacts, said that the talks with the Palestinian leadership had been useful. He conducted talks with the president of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and other leaders. Both sides exchanged views on developments in the Middle East and the various proposals for a Middle East settlement, including the developments concerning the moving of the peace process which are aimed at preparing and calling for the convening of an international peace conference.

Novosti reported that Tarasov had said we have good attempts [as heard], close relations and joint moves with the PLO leadership. We are in constant contact with the Palestinian friends and consult on the various aspects of the situation in the Middle East. We are confident that this joint move will also continue in the future on the basis of the realistic stand adopted by the PLO vis-a-vis a peaceful settlement in the region.

Tarasov confirmed that Moscow is having contacts with the various parties to the conflict in the Middle East, including Israel, and that Soviet diplomats had several meetings with Israeli representatives. He said we listen to the Israeli point of view and submit in turn our proposals. He added that these contacts will continue, and rejected the claim that they are aimed at the restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel. He stressed: we stand by dialogue with the various parties and the objective of the Soviet diplomacy is a rapid move towards practical steps for a settlement in the Middle East with the participation of all the concerned parties: the PLO, Israel, the Arab countries, and the Security Council permanent members, within the context of the preparation and call for an international conference.

It is worth mentioning that Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze proposed a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Moscow. Tarasov said: The PLO has adopted a positive stand vis-a-vis this proposal and it is ready for a practical participation in this dialogue. As to the Israeli side, there has not been a positive response yet. But we do not intend to withdraw this proposal from the working paper. Replying to the question about the causes of the obstacles to settlement in the Middle East, Tarasov said that the Palestinian policy is based on the resolutions of the Algiers session of the Palestine National Council. And should there be no move in the settlement of the Middle East problem, this would not be the fault of the PLO. He said the main obstacle to the start of the peace process is the attitude of Israel. He added that this is the opinion of the great majority of the heads of state and neutral observers.

Fatah Mourns Member Killed by 'Traitors'

JN3110183689 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Oct 89

["Text" of statement issued by "Fatah movement in the occupied territory"—date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Think not of those who are salin in God's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance in the presence of their Lord. [Koranic verses] The successive caravans of martyrs are torches lighting our path of struggle and pledge to offer blood. Our heroic martyr Sa'id Fu'ad al-Halqawi, the son of Palestine and Fatah, is one of these torches who was killed by the hand of treachery and treason. This hand has sold itself to the Zionist enemy and insisted on being a dagger to stab our people in the back. Let everyone, far and near, know that this hand will be cut off and that this clique which has sold itself and placed itself at the disposal of the enemy will face hard punishment. Then, remorse will be useless and our people will not be merciful with those who betrayed them and sold themselves to the enemy and were so insolent as to physically liquidate one of Fatah's elements and one of the sons of the Palestinian people in broad daylight. Woe unto traitors. A promise is a promise.

O Sa'id, congratulations on your martyrdom. You have sacrificed your soul for the sake of God and the homeland. You have offered your soul and blood for the sake of your people's pride and dignity, thus adding a new brick to our independent Palestinian state, God willing. With your martyrdom, you have unveiled the faces of some traitors who thought that their false masks can hide

their truth and that they are not exposed to their people. May your family and relatives be given patience and solace and let heaven be your final abode. We promise to avenge your death and all the righteous Palestinian martyrs. We promise you to continue struggle and be faithful to your blood until Palestine in liberated. A pledge is a pledge. Glory and immortality to the martyrs. Revolution until victory.

'Source' Denies Formation of Talks Delegation

TA3110153389 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 31 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] Tunis—A responsible Palestinian source has refuted news reports to the effect that the PLO has formed a delegation for talks with Israel.

The reports had noted that the PLO has formed a delegation comprising some Palestinian figures, including, as Palestinian representatives from outside, PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim and Fatah Revolutionary Council member Akram Haniyah, who are deportees from the occupied territories; in addition to Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

Security Council Meeting Sought on Occupied Lands

JN0111060789 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1926 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The State of Palestine has requested a Security Council meeting to take the necessary measures to secure international protection for our unarmed Palestinian people in our occupied Palestinian territory and to guarantee respect for the fourth Geneva convention on treatment of civilians in wartime. This came in a message from Brother Zuhdi Labib al-Tarazi, representative of the State of Palestine at the United nations, to the chairman of the Security Council, who is Canada's UN representative.

MENA on Fatah Central Committee Meetings

NC0111132689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1218 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Tunis, 1 Nov (MENA)—A responsible Palestinian source has stated that during its meetings in the last 2 days under Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat, the Fatah Central Committee reviewed developments in the efforts to promote peace in the Middle East.

The same source added that the committee members discussed the 10 points addressed by President Mubarak to Israel and the five-point plan of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Israel's response to it. The committee made no decision regarding these issues and decided to wait for the outcome of Arab and international efforts currently under way.

A MENA correspondent has learned that the Fatah Central Committee has decided to hold a meeting of the Fatah Revolutionary Council before the end of November, to be preceded by another meeting of the central committee to continue discussion of a number of organizational matters concerning the movement.

The central committee decided to choose Khalid al-Hasan, alias Abu-Sa'id, as the official in charge of information affairs with full powers; Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu-al-Lutf, as central committee secretary; Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, as first deputy secretary; Hakam Bal'awi as second deputy secretary; and Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir] as commissioner for social affairs inside and outside the occupied homeland.

During the future meeting, the Fatah Central Committee will elect three new members in accordance with the decision of Fatah's fifth congress that was held at the beginning of August. Among the candidates for membership are PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman; Abu-al-Mu'tasim, deputy chief of staff of the Palestinian revolution forces; Nabil Sha'th, President 'Arafat's political adviser; and 'Abdallah al-Ifranji, PLO representative in Bonn.

Algeria

Bendjedid Receives 'Arafat, Quake Condolences

LD3110144289 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpts] This morning Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, at the Presidency of the Republic.

After leaving the office of the president, 'Arafat made the following statement to the national press:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I have come on behalf of all my brothers in order to express our solidarity regarding the earthquake which took place on this sisterly territory, the territory of the 1.5 million martyrs, the territory of our beloved ones and our brothers, the heroic people of Algeria. [passage omitted]

At the same time, of course, I discussed with the president the overall picture of the Palestinian situation, including the blessed uprising of our people, in spite of the continuing Israeli criminal escalation against our women, children, and families; what is taking place in Gaza—the attempt to starve our people in Gaza—the daily and recurrrent crimes that are taking place in Nabulus; what is taking place in Bayt Sahur—the attempt to steal and completely rape this town; the criminal attempt which recently took place—the tearing of the holy Koran in the Mosque of Ibrahim in Jericho; and the dangerous and criminal attempt which was undertaken by a number of extremist and fanatical Zionists in laying the foundation stone in the holy mosque in Jerusalem. I briefed the president on all these things and we agreed to monitor them together, whether at the Arab or international levels—in the United Nations, the European Economic Community, with the socialist states, with the nonaligned states—in order to bring together the largest number of friends to confront these Israeli crimes.

During this session, we also discussed the Arab situations, including the attempt to ensure the success of the work of the tripartite committee in Lebanon, the importance of preserving the unity of the territory, people, institutions, and the patriotic and pan-Arab stance of Lebanon. At the same time, we also discussed the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, the results of this dialogue, and what was arrived at regarding this. I requested the president to use his influence at the various Arab and international levels in order to speed up the convening of an international conference on the Middle East so that we can, God willing, give impetus to the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace in our region and in the territory of peace, the territory of Palestine. [end recording]

FLN Issues Statement on Revolution Anniversary

LD3110145489 Algiers APS in English 1009 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Algiers, 31/10/89 (APS)—The Secretariat General of the Central Committee of the National Liberation Front issued on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the beginning of the November 1, 1954 revolution, a statement in which it indicated that "the Algerian revolution which was started by the FLN on November 1, 1954 was and will remain the greatest event of the history of the Algerian people. On this occasion, it called once again the Algerian people to mobilize again in order to continue the great national action expecting them, namely the preservation of the realization of the country, the defence of its stability and the defence of national independence in their struggle against economic difficulties in order to provide the objective conditions for the realization of the national project, the only one likely to guarantee the independence of the country and the future of the rising delegations [as received]."

Egypt

'Arafat, Al-Asad Condemn Remarks Against Mubarak

JN0111110189 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Oct 89 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, is expected to visit Cairo within the next few days at the head of a high-ranking Palestinian delegation to contain the sudden crisis with Egypt and appease the Egyptian leaders, who voiced their anger as a result of the hostile statements made by Rafiq al-Natshah, Palestinian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The PLO leaderships have condemned these statements and praised Egypt's role in supporting the Palestine question.

Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo affirmed that Syria has officially informed Egypt last week of its severe condemnation of George Habash's threats to President Mubarak. President Hafiz al-Asad had asked Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Jordanian King Husayn to convey his complete appreciation for President Mubarak and his efforts to serve the Arab causes. The sources also affirmed that the Syrian authorities expressed their deep dissatisfaction with his recent statements against Egypt and also asked him to stop such attacks against the Arab leaders because these attacks harm Arab-Syrian relations.

Diplomatic sources expect Al-Natshah to apologize for the statements he made against Egypt last week.

'Arafat To Visit Cairo for Situation 'Assessment'

NC3110130489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1224 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Cairo within the next 48 hours. MENA has learned that the Palestinian leader's visit to Cairo will probably take place tomorrow, Wednesday, and will come as part of the ongoing coordination between the Egyptian and Palestinian leaderships.

Official Palestinian sources in Cairo have stated that during the visit there will be a comprehensive assessment of the situation in light of the recent talks between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat, the five-point proposal made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and the talks conducted in Tunis and Cairo by Soviet Envoy Gennadiy Tarasov. [passage omitted]

Senegalese Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC3110085389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2221 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Senegalese Foreign Minister Ibrahima Fall arrived in Cairo this evening from Paris for a 3-day visit. He was welcomed at the airport by Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Senegalese ambassador in Cairo.

The Senegalese foreign minister said in an arrival statement that he is carrying a written message to President Husni Mubarak from the Senegalese president. He praised President Husni Mubarak's policy and said that his visit to Cairo comes within the framework of the diplomacy undertaken by President Mubarak, the OAU chairman, to resolve conflicts on the African Continent. This, he said, will have a positive effect on Africa's future. He added that he will also discuss bilateral relations with Egyptian officials.

Dr Butrus Ghali noted President Husni Mubarak's efforts to find a settlement to the Mauritanian-Senegalese conflict since his election as OAU chairman.

Meets 'Abd-al-Majid, Ghali

NC3110112889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Official talks between Egypt and Senegal began at the Foreign Ministry today. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met for about an hour with Senegalese Foreign Minister Ibrahima Fall who arrived in Cairo last night for a 3-day visit.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, later met with the Senegalese minister and discussed the developments in the situation between Senegal and Mauritania. This was done in light of the Egyptian efforts to resolve the dispute between the two countries.

Departs After 2-Day Visit

NC0111105489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1007 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—Senegalese Foreign Minister Ibrahima Fall left Cairo for home this morning after an official 2-day visit to Egypt in which he delivered a written message to President Husni Mubarak from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. He also held talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on bilateral relations and recent developments in Africa. He was seen off at the airport by Dr Butrus Ghali, mnister of state for foreign affairs.

Maltese Envoy Arrives With Message for Sidqi

NC3110084889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Ambassador Everst Salibah [name as received], political adviser to Maltese Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami, arrived in Cairo this evening from Valletta for a visit to Egypt.

Ambassador Salibah stated that he is carrying a written message to Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi from the Maltese prime minister. He said that he will hold talks with senior Foreign Ministry officials on ways of strengthening bilateral relations.

Soviet Official Arrives for Nehru Anniversary

NC3110084189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Anver Kiyabikov [name as received], chairman of the Soviet committee of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, arrived in Cairo this evening from Moscow on a visit to Egypt.

The Soviet official will attend the organization's celebration of Indian leader Nehru's 100th birthday, which will be begin on 1 November and last for 2 days.

Butrus Ghali Confers With Soviet Ambassador

NC3110161189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1521 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev today stressed his country's support for President Husni Mubarak's efforts to find a peaceful settlement for the Mauritanian-Senegalese dispute. He made this statement during a meeting today with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. They also reviewed the latest developments in Africa and Egypt's diplomatic efforts to resolve African disputes.

Arab Cooperation Council Official Arrives

NC3110164389 Cairo MENA in English 1254 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 31 (MENA)—Dr Hilmi Nammar, secretary general of of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], arrived here this afternoon coming from Amman, the headquarters of the ACC, on a weeklong visit. The prime ministers of the ACC four member states are to meet in the first half of January in the Jordanian capital while the ACC summit is to be held in February, Nammar said upon arrival. The ACC encompasses together Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and North Yemen.

Remarks Attributed to Palestinian Official Denied

NC3110122889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—A prominent Palestinian source here today denied the remarks said to have been made by Rafiq al-Natshah, Palestinian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, disregarding Egypt's role and its efforts in support of the Palestinian issue.

Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, stressed that Al-Natshah is fully committed to the PLO policy. He added that Al-Natshah personally has full appreciation for Egypt in general and President Mubarak in particular, and this is his firm position toward Egypt and its people. Kamal said several contacts were made in the past few days regarding the remarks alleged to have been made by Mr al-Natshah during the recent meeting in Jeddah of the information ministers of the Islamic countries as well as the statement made by Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan in this regard. The contacts revealed that the remarks attributed to Al-Natshah are untrue. Al-Natshah himself visited the Egyptian ambassador in Saudi Arabia, who in turn sent the necessary clarifications to Cairo over this misunderstanding, he added.

Maritime Transport Conference 'Inaugurated'

NC3110073089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1202 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Alexandria, 30 Oct (MENA)—This morning Eng Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport and Eng 'Isa al-Mazidi, Kuwaiti minister of state for services and works, inaugurated the first international conference on maritime transport problems in developing countries. The conference is organized by the research and investments center of the maritime transport sector in cooperation with the UN conference for trade and development, Alexandria University, the public sector organization for maritime transport, and the Arab academy for maritime transport. The conference is being held at the Ramada Inn in Alexandria.

During its 3 days of sessions, the conference will debate 24 research issues involving the problems facing maritime transport in developing countries and the future plans of these states to develop their programs in this field so that they can benefit from maritime transport to achieve comprehensive development and can benefit from the world commerce transported by ship.

The conference will also discuss the development of ports, use of modern technology, international maritime law, maritime insurance, contemporary changes in ship technology, development of dockyards in Egypt, and the factors influential in designing ships in developing countries.

Eng Sulayman Mutawalli delivered a speech at the opening session in which he announced that the maritime transport industry is considered one of those most affected by international policy. He added that the recent period has been characterized by a huge upsurge in the world's maritime transport industry. It has witnessed considerable technological and organizational changes in designing advanced ships equipped with the most modern equipment, automatic control systems, and communications equipment.

The transport minister noted that this upsurge was paralleled by similar development in port equipment and facilities, computerization, and modern data systems. The minister said that the transport industry is considered one of the bases of the Egyptian national economy. This sector represents one of the major sectors which keep up with modern technology.

The minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport said that the establishment of a national maritime transport industry in developing countries is closely linked to economic development. He explained that these countries depend on this industry as a source of foreign currency to ease their balance of payments deficit. They depend on maritime transport to have a link with the international trade movement, export their national products, and import products needed for development. He said that this makes it imperative that these countries pursue a policy that would make maritime transport a base for serving their economic objectives.

Eng Mutawalli added that Egypt has been keeping up with the technological development of the maritime transport industry since the beginning of the eighties. This was manifested by drawing up ambitious plans which had a great effect on increasing the size of the national fleet to three times what it was and on increasing the volume of trade that moved through the ports. He spoke about the development and modernization of the present Egyptian ports and about increasing their efficiency and establishing new ports, making them capable of dealing with the present and with traffic anticipated until the year 2000. With this improvement, fines for delays disappeared, and Egyptian ports acquired a good reputation in the world. This is in

addition to their role in transiting trade in view of their excellent geographic location.

The minister said that the importance of the conference stems from the fact that it will deal with many issues pertaining to maritime transport and its problems, the challenges facing world trade, the role of the developing states in this, support for national fleets, maritime education and training as a principal prelude to development, system analyses and their role in the development of organizational structures for the maritime transport companies, and solutions to problems facing this sector. There is also the question of the importance of coordination and cooperation among the developing countries, exchanging expertise, and utilizing the development which takes place in this vital sector.

Eng 'Isa al-Mazidi, Kuwaiti minister of state for services and works affairs, delivered a speech in which he spoke about the problems and challenges facing developing countries in the various fields as they are about to enter the 21st century. He also spoke about the imbalance between the industrialized and developed North and the developing and underdeveloped countries of the South.

He said that since the sixties, world shipbuilding has witnessed tremendous development. This included advanced and large ships, container ships, and roll-on and roll-off ships. These modern types of ships affected the design and development of ports and port facilities as well as the overland roads and bridges. Many industries and fields were compelled to keep up with this development in order to better deal with international trade, which plays a distinguished role in the trade and economy of the Arab world. Because of its lack of international fast highways and railways, the Arab world depends a great deal on shipping for the movement of goods, he said.

The Kuwaiti minister outlined four issues and asked the conference to make appropriate recommendations to them. These issues are maritime deception and fraud; the new development in the specifications of containers used in maritime transport; the building of giant ships in the world's shipbuilding docks; and the stunning technological progress in maritime communications through satellites and the use of telephones, radios, and fax machines between ships.

He noted that the Gulf Cooperation Council states have established a permanent bureau to overcome the question of maritime fraud and deception and to supply the Arab Gulf ports with detailed statements about incidents of maritime fraud. International study and coordination is needed in order to put an end to the crimes of maritime piracy, he said.

He added that developments in container construction demand the development of ports and port facilities.

Dr Ahmad Hasan Ma'mun, the director of the consultancy and research center of the maritime transport sector, delivered a speech in which he called on the developing countries to overcome the obstacles facing them in the field of maritime transport and to keep up with international progress through education, training, and scientific research in order to achieve progress in record time, like the major industrialized countries.

Dr Jamal Mukhtar, the director general of the Arab academy for maritime transport, spoke about the current cooperation between the academy on the one hand and U.S. and British universities and Alexandria University on the other to grant masters and doctorate degrees in the various maritime fields for the academy students.

The conference was attended by Arab delegations from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Sudan, and the Yemeni Arab Republic and delegations and experts from Britain, France, Norway, Switzerland, and Italy. It was also attended by many experts from specialized international organizations, Egyptian maritime transport experts, heads of shipping companies and agencies, and directors of the various Egyptian ports.

Following the opening session, the first session of the conference was held. Studies about the problems of maritime transport in the developing countries and the challenges facing the developing countries in the field of maritime transport were discussed. The discussion in the second session dealt with maritime training and education in the developing countries and plans to develop the programs of the Arab academy for maritime transport.

The conference will resume its sessions tomorrow, Tuesday.

Conference Resumes Sessions

NC3110121089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Alexandria, 31 Oct (MENA)—The first international conference on maritime transport problems in developing nations resumed its sessions in Alexandria this morning. It discussed the economic aspects of maritime transport, current and future issues connected with international trade in the southern and eastern Mediterranean, the economic problems facing national shipping companies in the Arabian Gulf, and the importance of introducing sophisticated maritime transport methods into the merchant fleets of developing nations. The conference also discussed the use of systems analysis and operational research and its maritime applications in solving the problems of maritime transport. It also debated the use of operational research in developing the organizational structures of maritime transport companies and the use of administrative data systems to measure the efficiency of ports.

The conference also discussed the effects of contemporary changes in port, vessel, and container technology in developing countries, the systems of planned maintenance, the technology of the maritime transport industry, maritime insurance, the UN agreement regarding the maritime transport of goods in developing

nations, the role of Egyptian dockyards and the problems facing them, and proposals for resolving these problems.

The conference will conclude its meetings tomorrow, Wednesday, and will issue its decisions and recommendations.

Media Policy Focused on Abolishing 'Centralism'

NC3110114289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 31 Oct 89

[From the "press review"]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AHRAM cites a statement by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif that Egyptian media policy is focusing on abolishing centralism in radio and television transmission and on establishing more local radio and television stations. He said this is designed to achieve the media's role in dealing with local community issues and encouraging their resolution. He added that work is under way to open two new television stations, one in Alexandria to serve the central Nile delta area and another in Aswan to serve Upper Egypt.

Libya

People's Bureau Summons Italian Envoy on Threats

LD3110142589 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The Italian ambassador accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah was summoned by the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation this morning. He was told of the indignation of the Great Jamahiriyah following the threats and harrassments faced by the members and employees of the Arab Libyan People's Bureau in Rome and the other Libyan Arab citizens present in the Italian arena from some Italian fascist elements.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation asked the Italian ambassador to convey to his government the necessity to put an end to this behavior which can harm the bilateral relations and lead to other developments.

Sudan

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Kurmuk Situation

JN3110155689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul by an unidentified Amman radio reporter; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr 'Ali Sahlul, Sudanese foreign minister, we greet you from the broadcasting service of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Sir, we would first like you to shed some light on the latest developments in the Kurmuk area in southeastern Sudan.

[Sahlul] A military communique has been issued on the events that took place in the Kurmuk area, which led to the withdrawal of the Sudanese force from that region as a result of the intensive shelling directed at this area from the Ethiopian territories. The troops were, therefore, forced to withdraw after the rebel forces had attacked this area. In our opinion, this shelling was a result of the interference of a quarter outside the framework of the rebel movement.

[Reporter] Sir, will this reflect on the situation in southern Sudan?

[Sahlul] No fighting is currently taking place in southern Sudan, but we suspect that this operation was carried out to divert attention and might be followed by an offensive against southern Sudan.

[Reporter] Do these developments mean that the peace option as proposed by the National Salvation Revolution Command Council has now been canceled?

[Sahlul] No. Regarding the Sudanese Government, this option is still valid and we will continue to pursue it. However, we believe that Garang's action is meant to divert attention from the peace option, but this is not the Sudanese Government's option.

[Reporter] Foreign Minister of Sudan, the Sudanese Army communique held Ethiopia responsible in one way or another. Does this mean the return of tension to bilateral relations?

[Sahlul] As for Sudan, we do not want to see tension or deterioration in our relations. But at the same time we are not ready to accept that the Ethiopian territories and capabilities be used for hostile operations against Sudan. Hence, we protested to Ethiopia against what had happened. We, however, are ready at any time to cooperate with Ethiopia once it ends such actions.

[Reporter] Is there a Sudanese political movement on the Arab level at present?

[Sahlul] Deputy Prime Minister Brigadier al-Zubayr is currently visiting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

[Reporter] Sir, we have information that His Excellency Lieutenant General al-Bashir will tomorrow visit Sanaa, one of the capitals of the Arab Cooperation Council member states. What is the nature of this visit?

[Sahlul] It naturally falls within the framework of the visits Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir is paying to a number of sisterly Arab states. This will be the beginning of visits to a number of states, including Yemen, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, and others. We are now in the process of preparing for these visits. Yemen was the first country to reply and to welcome the visit. Naturally, as a result of the events of the past 2 days, the two capitals

agreed to postpone the visit for some time and thus it will not take place tomorrow as scheduled.

[Reporter] Foreign minister of Sudan, in light of the initial results of contacts, how do you now assess the Arab aid to Sudan?

[Sahlul] I believe that the Arab aid is appreciated and suitable. We are concerned that this aid continues particularly under the current circumstances and that it covers all areas whether economic, security, or others. The Arab nation has thankfully not hesitated to extend the required aid at the right time.

[Reporter] Sir, allow us to tackle another subject. It is that of the Jordanian medical teams in the Kas area in Sudan. Could you tell us about the fraternal Sudanese people's impressions about the role of these teams?

[Sahlul] This team has naturally done great work that is much appreciated, particularly in an area that lacked such services. All the Sudanese people thank Jordan under His Majesty King Husayn for all that they have extended to Sudan, not only the medical teams in the Kas and (Zalinjilah) areas, but also aid in all other spheres. Jordan did not fail to assist Sudan, and the Sudanese people view this with gratitude.

[Reporter] Sir, may God bless you. Thanks to 'Ali Sahlul, foreign minister of sisterly Sudan. Thank you.

[Sahlul] Thank you.

Further Reportage on Kurmuk Situation

'Breach' in Ethiopian Relations

EA3110191789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Sudan has informed Ethiopia of its protest over the bombardment of Kurmuk border town from positions inside Ethiopian territory, before which the Ethiopian forces evacuated their border area next to Kurmuk town.

The under secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Ethiopian charge d'affaires in Khartoum, and explained to him that what happened was a dangerous issue which could cause a breach in relations between the two countries, especially when these relations have recently begun to improve continually.

The Ethiopian charge d'affaires gave an assurance that he would convey this protest to his government.

Garang Congratulates SPLA

EA3110194889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The Commander in chief and chairman of SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army], Comrade John Garang de Mabior, has sent millions of congratulations through radio SPLA to the SPLA Chief of Staff, Commander William Nyuan Bany, officers, NCO's, and men of New Funj, for their stand against unprovoked attack on SPLA positions in Surkum, and subsequent retaliatory attacks and capture of Kurmuk which, he said, will go a long way towards the realization of the new united democratic Sudan of progress, prosperity, justice, and equality of all, irrespective of race, tribe, region, or religion.

The commander in chief assured the commander and the forces of the New Funj that the movement will spare no resource in reinforcing them to repulse the junta's attempt to recapture Kurmuk.

The Commander in Chief Comrade John Garang de Mabior also congratulated Commander Yusuf Kuwah Makki, officers, NCO's and men of the New Kush forces, for their many victories over 'Umar al-Bashir's many attacks on innocent civilians in southern Kurdufan since last July.

Like in New Funj, the SPLA commander in chief assured the SPLA forces and population of New Kush that the SPLA will not let them down. Long live the new Sudan, long live New Funj, long live New Kush! concluded the SPLA commander in chief.

Al-Bashir Comments

NC0111165289 Paris AFP in English 1637 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 1 (AFP)—Ethiopia permitted Sudanese rebels to use its territory to shell the border town of Kurmuk, which fell to the Sudan People's Liberation Army on Sunday [29 October], Sudan's military leader 'Umar al-Bashir said here Wednesday [1 November].

General al-Bashir also repeated earlier claims that foreign military experts took part in the rebel assault.

His government had the previous day protested officially that Ethiopia eased the SPLA capture of Kurmuk by pulling its own troops out of the combat zone.

Gen al-Bashir said the fighting broke out as the junta which seized power here on June 30 was about to send a delegation to the Ethiopian capital for peace talks with the rebels.

Gen al-Bashir made his allegations during a conference on Sudan's economic problems. He said Sudan for its part had undertaken mediation between the Ethiopian Government and rebel groups from its war-torn northern province of Eritrea.

The state news agency SUNA meanwhile reported that Ethiopian tanks had taken part in the Kurmuk fighting. It said the report came from the commander of the 14th army brigade stationed there. [passage omitted]

Unidentified Planes Bomb SPLA-Held Town

AB0111092489 Paris AFP in English 0850 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Nairobi, Nov 1 (AFP)—Two unidentified planes bombed the rebel-held southern Sudanese town of Yirol, Tuesday, killing up to five civilians and wounding six, relief sources said here Wednesday. The bombing led to an immediate suspension of UN relief flights to south Sudan from northern Kenya.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which makes daily flights to Yirol in al-Buhayrat Province, sent a plane Wednesday to evacuate the wounded to its hospital at Lokichogio in northern Kenya.

The attack on Yirol, held by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), followed Monday's SPLA announcement that it had captured the strategic town of Kurmuk, close to the Ethiopian border in northern Sudan. The taking of Kurmuk was the first military defeat inflicted by the SPLA on the forces of Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, who seized power in Khartoum June 30.

The Sudanese Government announced a ceasefire renewal October 21 while the SPLA, which won a string of victories in south Sudan earlier this year, had been observing a de facto ceasefire since May.

Al-Bashir Visit to North Yemen Postponed

EA3110192489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The visit of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council to the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], which was scheduled for tomorrow, has been postponed.

Lt Gen 'Umar will meet the YAR president, 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih, as soon as possible to discuss the strengthening of relations between the two fraternal countries.

Al-Bashir Visits Troops at Al-Damazin

EA3110202889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and the delegation accompanying him, returned to Khartoum at 1700 today, after a working inspection visit to the command of the 14th (?infantry) brigade at al-Damazin [Blue Nile Region], and the positions of the advance units.

His excellency visited the wounded at the military hospital, and acquainted himself with the military intelligence on the security and operational situations.

He then addressed the officers and other ranks of the al-Damazin Garrison.

He and his delegation then flew in a helicopter to the forward positions and lines of our forces, and he assured that all the sons of Sudan were behind them, and he praised them for their high morale. He told them that everything had been prepared to regain Kurmuk, and all the positions occupied by the outlaws all over the country. [passage omitted]

Radio Cites Rebels' 'Foreign Support'

EA3010221989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Oct 89

[From "Topic of the Day"]

[Text] The General Command of the People's Armed Forces yesterday issued a statement in which it informed the Sudanese masses about the crime committed against the innocent and defenseless citizens by the rebel movement, and against Sudan, which has continued to offer the rebels its beneficent hand ever since the outbreak of the National Salvation Revolution. That revolution declared a general amnesty to everyone bearing arms against legitimacy, and declared a cease-fire on the day of its birth. But the facts show that the movement is not prepared to respond to the call for peace for the sake of the Sudan, which it is trying to liberate [as heard].

The National Salvation Revolution has continued to offer its beneficent hands for 4 months, and has transformed words into deeds by calling the national peace dialogue conference. It has invited the conference the sons of Sudan of all views and inclinations, as a practical and courageous step towards achieving security, stability, and peace.

The response of the rebel movement, however, was as usual irresponsible, and it was unable to meet the challenge, for at the very time that the people were offering their beneficent hands, having unified their will and agreed among themselves, the movement contented itself by extending its wicked hands stained with the blood of the innocent and defenseless, incited by the enemies of Sudan.

At the time when the revolution is preparing the ground for peace, and has planted it with olive saplings for a harvest of benefits and blessings, the movement is releasing missiles of death, fire, and destruction, laying waste the land, and killing defenseless simple souls and innocent citizens, who have no idea in whose interests the movement is doing all this.

On the other hand, the movement certainly knows the answer to that, and is acting thus as the price of its mercenary role. If that is not so, then why did it abandon the revolution and the Sudanese people to achieve peace on their own?

The results of the national peace dialogue conference sufficed to enable the movement to lay down its arms and return to the fold of the homeland to participate in construction and development.

But what the movement embarked upon instead was a vain attempt to besiege what the decisions of the conference had consolidated, and the proposals it had put forward at the moment. By that crime, the movement sought to prompt our forces to attack it, and respond to its repeated acts of aggression and constant violations. This wicked act of aggression renders absolutely void all the rebel movement's recent claims, which have been greedily gobbled up by the hired media, to the effect that it was the Armed Forces which violated the cease-fire.

The Armed Forces, which adhered to and observed the cease-fire, are capable of dealing with the tricks of the enemies and the acts of aggression of the agents.

The involvement of foreign experts in the conduct of the battle and the support provided for this aggression prove beyond a shadow of doubt that this hostile act is taking place within the context of an international plan, in which the rebel movement is being used as a cats paw for that plan to be meticulously and painstakingly implemented. It also proves the mercenary nature of the movement.

The Armed Forces, backed by the Sudanese masses, unified in determination and word, will not give up a single inch of the soil of the noble homeland, in the defense of which they are staking every means at their disposal and every martyr needed to protect and preserve it. God is greatest and there is no rest for cowards.

Agreement With Yugoslavia on Debt Repayment

EA2710151089 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 26, SUNA—Agreement between Sudan Sealines Corporation and the Yugoslav Government will be concluded soon, according to which 20,000,000 US dollars will be repaid by Sudan in five years. Director general of Sudan Sealines Captain Abduh Muhammad Ibrahim, told "AL-INQADH AL-WATANI" daily that Sudan has already paid 15,000,000 U.S. dollars out of the total of 32,000,000 U.S. dollars. The Yugoslav Government has already dropped a total of 19,000,000 U.S. dollars interest of construction of five ships to Sudan in the Yugoslav shipyards.

French Envoy, Official Discuss Army Cooperation

EA2911072089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] This morning the minister of state for defense, General [retired] 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, had a meeting at his office at the General Command with Mr Marcel Laugel, the French ambassador in Khartoum. They discussed bilateral relations and various aspects of cooperation between the French and Sudanese armies.

Tunisia

'Arafat Statement on Talks With President

LD3010152889 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning met with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian state, in the presence of Prime Minister Hammed Karoui. Following the meeting, which was also attended by Abu Mazin [Muhmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Executive Committee, President Yasir 'Arafat made a statement in which he expressed his joy at meeting his excellency the president. He added that he briefed the head of state in detail of the proceedings of the recent Palestinian Central Council in Baghdad and on its decisions. He noted that they also discussed the steps being taken by the Palestinian cause especially regarding the steadfast resistance of the Palestinian masses against Israeli occupation and its criminal endeavors against Islamic holy places and the al-Aqsa Mosque. Such endeavors include the attempts of Zionist gangs to lay the foundation stones of the Temple of Solomon in the mosque of holy Jerusalem, the tearing of the holy Koran in the Mosque of Ibrahim in Jericho, and the attacks on churches in Bethlehem and (Bayt Sahur).

Yasir 'Arafat also said he briefed President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on recent developments in the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, particularly in view of the visit which the president intends to make to New York and Washington.

Yasir 'Arafat also said that they discussed a number of other important issues in the Arab and international arenas.

The head of the Palestinian state concluded his statement by saying: I should like to express my pride in the principled, fraternal and fighting position adopted by Tunisia, its president and people, in support of their militant Palestinian brothers.

Mauritanian Arrives on Visit; Meets Ben Ali

AB2710134089 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] chairman and head of state, has arrived in Carthage from Baghdad. The CMSN chairman and head of state received an official welcome at the Carthage [name indistinct] airport. The head of state listened to the national anthems of Mauritania and Tunisia and reviewed a unit of the presidential guard which paid honors to him. Then the CMSN chairman and head of state greeted officials who came to welcome him and was driven to the (Saada) Palace, where he met Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who greeted him on the stairs of the Carthage Palace. The two presidents held

private talks, following which the head of state was invited to lunch by the Tunisian president.

It should be recalled that the CMSN chairman and head of state left Baghdad this morning. Before leaving, the head of state was seen off by President Saddam Husayn, members of the high command of the revolution and cabinet, and the Mauritanian and Iraqi ambassadors. Earlier, the two heads of state held talks. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Government Condemns Beirut Killing of Citizen

LD0111151989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1429 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Nov (SPA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman has made the following statement to SPA:

This morning, 1 November 1989, three gunmen armed with hand guns fitted with silencers opened fire on Saudi citizen Muhammad 'Ali al-Marzuq, employed by the Saudi Embassy in Beirut and a long-term resident in Lebanon.

This criminal attack took place near his home in Tallat al-Khayyat in West Beirut and killed him, may God rest his soul.

The official added:

The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strongly condemns and deplores these recurrent criminal activities against the sons of the Kingdom abroad, activities that are undertaken at hands of cowardly criminal terrorists. It urges the appropriate Lebanese authorities to make every effort to discover the identity of the criminals so that they may receive a deterrent punishment that befits their crime against an innocent Saudi citizen who was a guest of Lebanon and its people.

Yemen Arab Republic

YAR-PDRY Unity Committee Meets 31 Oct

JN3110144989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The meetings of the unified political organization of the two parts of the homeland began in the city of Ta'izz at noon today under the chairmanship of Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee in the Arab Republic of Yemen [YAR]; and Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Central Committee in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], the southern part of the homeland. At the beginning of the meeting, Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani delivered a speech welcoming the head and members of the delegation of the southern part of the homeland to the unified political organization.

He said that these meetings constitute a historic and important event because the committee is meeting for the first time since it was established in accordance with the Tripoli statement of 1972. He added that the committee was meeting today after many unionist steps had been taken as a result of the the Cairo and Tripoli agreements, which have achieved great and important successes in the restoration of Yemeni unity, in various areas, with a view to creating a larger entity: the unity state.

He also said: Today, we will deal with the most important and serious basic issue—namely, the Yemeni masses' right to free political action. He added that the Yemeni masses have the right to enjoy freedom and full democracy in the unity state, stressing that the work of the committee of the political organization is the foundation on which the masses of our people will be able to enjoy the full democratic freedom that is clearly guaranteed by the Constitution of the unity state.

He continued: The corner stone for the establishment of the unity state is its constitution, which was framed in 1982. He said that the work of our committee—the committee of the unified political organization—completes this important process on the basis of political action in the unity state. He added that this task is a historic and a necessary step toward the great goal of the unity state and the unified state of Yemen.

Al-Iryani added: When we have finished this task, the features of the political, social, cultural, and economic entity of the unity state will become clear and complete. Ending his statement, he expressed the hope that the committee would be successful, that the committee members would win the good opinion of the political leaderships of the two parts of the homeland, and that the committee would achieve the Yemeni masses' desire to expedite the process in order to establish the Republic of Yemen as soon as possible.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant Central Committee secretary general in our southern homeland, also delivered a speech expressing his happiness over the committee's first meeting. He said: This is a good opportunity to tackle an important area of the unity question through determined action and brotherly constructive dialogue. He added: The committe is beginning its work under the proper circumstances of mutual confidence and cordial relations between the two leaderships of the two parts of the homeland.

The committee then began discussing the topics on its agenda.

Brother Salim arrived in the city of Ta'izz this morning, heading the delegation of the southern part of the homeland to the unified political organization committee, which began meeting in Ta'izz at noon today.

In a statement to SABA, Brother Salim Salih Muhammad expressed his happiness, and that of the members of his delegation of the southern part to the political organization committee, over his meeting with the northern part's delegation to the political organization committee, which consists of the General People's Congress. He said: We view the meeting in the city of Ta'izz as a valuable opportunity because we consider the city of Ta'izz to be blessed for leading the armed struggle against British colonialism and for being the venue of great unionist agreements in the past.

Brother Salim also said: We are happy to meet with our dear brothers, led by dear Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim

al-Iryani, and with the members of the northern part, to discuss a subject that we consider very important and that will promote the forthcoming political activity to fulfil the aspirations and achieve our great goal, namely, the restoration of Yemeni unity. He added: This is alo an excellent opportunity for us to meet with Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president leader and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and to convey to him the greetings of the secretary general of the Central Committee of the southern part of the homeland and the greetings of Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium.

Brother Salim continued: Our meeting with our brothers in the northern part of the homeland's delegation to the political organization committee is a good opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the organizational and political experience of the General People's Congress, and also to brief our brothers, the members of the northern part's delegation, on our organizational and political experience and our achievements; this is with a view to holding a useful dialogue on our intended project and discussing the political and organizational bases of the unified political organization—as well as all the other issues—with open hearts and minds.

Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani then made a smiliar statement to SABA in which he pointed out that this was an important opportunity to discuss the Tripoli agreement provision concerning the political organization in the unity state. He added: This meeting is a historic and important event because the committee is meeting for the first time to discuss issues pertaining to the Yemeni masses in both parts of Yemen. He added: Most of the unity committees are about to finish their work, while this committee is beginning its work to discuss political issues, political action, and the democratic freedom that should prevail in the unity state.

The head and members of the delegation of the southern part of the homeland were received on arrival by Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minisrter, and member of the Standing Committee; Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the General People's Congress; Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and member of the Standing Committee; Isma'il Ahmad al-Wazir, minister of legal and Consultative Council affairs and member of the Standing Committee; 'Ali Lutfi al-Thawr and Ahmad 'Ali al-Matari, members of the Consultative Council; the Ta'izz governor; and several officials.

Salih Receives Unity Delegation

JN3110201389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] At his residence in the presidential palace in the city of Ta'izz today, Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Conggress in the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], received Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Central Committee in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], the southern part of the homeland, and the members of the two parts' delegations to the unified political organization committee.

At the beginning of the meeting, Brother Salim Salih Muhammad conveyed to the president leader the greetings of Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee; and Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium. The president leader welcomed Brother Salim Salih Muhammad and the members of the southern part of the homeland's delegation, stressing the importance of this unionist meeting in the city of Ta'izz. He also said that the masses in both parts of the homeland eagerly await the results of the meeting, which will take a further step toward unity and will fulfil their aspirations for the establishment of the unity state on strong and solid foundations in order to exemplify the goals of the immortal Yemeni revolution and the loyalty and sacrifices of our righteous martyrs and honorable strugglers.

The president leader also urged the members of the two delegations to the committee to exert every effort to reach agreement on unified political action; to benefit from all the previous experiences; to promote the popular will; and to fulfil the aspiration for the establishment of the unity state on a sound democratic basis, in light of the unionist agreements between the two parts.

President Salih continued: The YAR political leadership will spare no effort to exemplify our peoples' great goal and continue the responsible and serious dialogue in order to guarantee the restoration of the unity of the Yemeni homeland. He added that unity is the principal guarantee for Yemen's progress, strength, independence, and prosperity.

Peace Organization Discusses North-South Relations

JN0111135489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] The Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council yesterday held a meeting in Sanaa with Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister, standing committee member, and head of the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council; Khalid Baras, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and deputy head of the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council in the southern part of the homeland; and a number of members of the presidium and the council.

During the meeting, they discussed means of directing the Yemeni peace movement between the two parts of the homeland as a step toward unity down the path of comprehensive Yemeni unity. They agreed to set down ideas on preparing the unified constitution of the two

councils which will be discussed in a joint meeting after studying it and making the necessary amends and proposals.

The conferees affirmed the necessity of exchanging expertise and coordinating between the two councils in the international forums and conferences. They also agreed to organize joint action to prepare for the meeting of the Arab solidarity committees in Sanaa, the World Peace Council, and the seminar for the horizons of peace, development, and cooperation in the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, and Arab Gulf; celebrate the commemoration of founding the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization; as well as organizing the exchange of information and news, issuing a joint newscast, organizing exchange of international visits, in addition to organizing a seminar on the importance of uniting the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Committee.

The meeting also had positive results on uniting the Yemeni peace movement.

London Paper Cited on Attempt Against Rafsanjani

JN3110173089 Baghdad INA in English 1615 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] London, Oct. 31, INA—The Daily London STANDARD said that Iran's President Rafsanjani miraculously escaped an assassination attempt on his life by his Iranian rivals.

According to sources in Tehran, the paper said, the attempt was carried out three weeks ago as a part of the power struggle among Iran's top echelon.

The paper summarized the attempt, during Rafsanjani's meeting in the presidential palace. One of the palace's guards charged into the palace carrying his machine gun, but was shot before being able to get to his goal.

'British Spy' Pazoft Confesses on Baghdad TV

JN3110204189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Oct (INA) —This evening Baghdad Television broadcast an interview with Farzad Pazoft, the British spy of Persian origin who was arrested while carrying out spy work in Iraq for Zionist intelligence.

The Zionist spy confessed that he and his British girlfriend, Daphne Anne Parish, who used to work as a hospital staff nurse, spied for Zionist intelligence to gather information on Iraqi military institutions. The spy Farzad Pazoft said that he confessed to the Iraqi authorities without being compelled to do so. He disclosed the facts of his spying after the Iraqi authorities caught him carrying films, criminal evidence he had gathered, and plans he had drawn up.

The Zionist spy revealed that the British authorities knew about him and the spy work he was entrusted with in Iraq. This indicates the strong and effective Israeli influence on British policy.

Following is the text of the interview:

Question: Give your full name, profession, and address.

Answer: I am Farzad Pazoft. I still work as a journalist for the British newspaper THE OBSERVER, and I live in London.

Question: What is your nationality and where were you born?

Answer: I am of Iranian origin from Persian parents. I was born in the city of Masjed-e Soleyman, Iran, in 1958 and currently carry a British passport.

Question: How long did you live in England for your education and work?

Answer: I have been living in the United Kingdom since 1975, when I left Iran.

Question: What did you study in Britain and at which university?

Answer: I have a degree in social sciences from the British University of Sheffield.

Question: When were you recruited for spying and for whom?

Answer: In 1983 I met some Israeli intelligence men as friends. In 1987 I was recruited by some Israeli intelligence elements in the UK, who are working in Britain under known covers.

Question: How did the spying operation take place, and how were you contacted?

Answer: After I met the Israeli intelligence agents in 1983, they studied my situation and my great need for employment arising from my poor financial status. They assured me that if I worked for them they would guarantee work for me in the future. After I got the job with the British newspaper THE OBSERVER in 1987, of which I have very good knowledge, they started to exploit me and my work to serve their purposes as intelligence officers. They then trained me in writing reports, gathering information, and obtaining information from people, directly or indirectly, in a way which would not raise suspicions about me. The Israeli intelligence agents used to contact me on a regular basis.

Question: What targets were you assigned to collect information on following your recruitment by the Israeli intelligence officer?

Answer: They assigned me with collecting various information on many targets in order to be more capable of presenting it to the Israeli intelligence [sentence as received]. They also assigned me with collecting information on a number of military areas, and on military industrialization, political and social information, and information regarding the Iraqis' morale during and after the war.

Question: When were you assigned to collect information on Iraq?

Answer: I was assigned to collect information on Iraq during my frequent visits to Iraq, which began in 1988.

Question: What is the nature of the information you were assigned to collect?

Answer: I was assigned to collect information on a number of areas, most important of which were military installations and military industry, as well as political, social, and other information. I used my camera to take photos and talked with military and civilian people. I also talked with citizens and prepared reports and delivered them to Israeli intelligence.

Question: What was your latest espionage mission?

Answer: The British paper THE OBSERVER, for which I work, was invited to send a journalist to cover the

Kurdistan Autonomous Region Legislative Council elections. I came in response to this invitation. As usual, the Israeli intelligence elements entrusted me with exploiting this invitation to collect information and take pictures of military industrialization installations. This is because they realized the advancement and various mass media reports have preoccupied the attention of Israeli intelligence, as I was told by my supervising intelligence officer. I came to Baghdad on 6 September 1989. Following my visit to the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, I secretly went to an important military installation with my British girlfriend, Daphne Anne Parish, who guided and helped me take pictures of the installation, collect some important samples, and prepare a report on the installation.

Question: Tell us how you were apprehended?

Answer: As I said, I was near Baghdad with Daphne Anne Parish, who holds British nationality, driving a land cruiser, which belongs to the hospital where she works as head nurse. I secretly took pictures of the military installation because it was forbidden to approach the installation. Therefore, I resorted to this secret method and because my major target, in accordance with the Israeli intelligence mission, was this military installation. I collected some samples which serve this operation, took pictures, wrote down important points which could be used in writing a final report about this installation, and drew an intelligence sketch of this important military area. The British national was with me. We went to this area twice on 2 different days, but we were caught by your authorities. We had in hand the films, the report, the samples, and the sketch I drew.

Question: How did you know the British person, Daphne Anne Parish, and what are the facilities which she provided you to help in your espionage mission?

Answer: Somehow I got to know Daphne Anne Parish in Baghdad in 1988. She provided me with all facilities. She provided me with a cover for movement and acted as a guide and provided means for transporting the samples I collected. She used the hospital vehicle and guided me to the areas I spied on because I did not know the specific locations, although Israeli intelligence described them for me on the map. She also helped me collect samples and brought me two tubes in which to hide the samples I collected.

Question: Since you are a journalist and live in Britain, what is your aim in working for Israeli intelligence?

Answer: Israeli intelligence was following my situation. I wanted to reside in Britain permanently. The British police helped get my travel documents; but on the other hand, the Israelis were funding me every now and then with money and to survive. My working for them against Iraq gave me a good life in Britain.

Question: How did you come to confess to the crime of spying in Iraq?

Answer: It did not require much effort because when the Iraqi authorities arrested me I had all the material evidence against me one needs to confirm the crime of spying in accordance with the law. Therefore, I felt that it was logical simply to confess.

Question: Were you subjected to any kind of oppression or torture while you were arrested or during your interrogation?

Answer: None whatsoever. I am very grateful for what happened, since the treatment by the special authorities was very civilized and based on logical discussion, argument, and the evidence at their disposal, without any force or any type of coercion. The evidence they presented me with at the beginning of the investigation was enough for me to confess everything to them directly. In fact, the treatment I received in Iraq was much better than the treatment I would get in the same situation in a country like Britain. This is a fact and not flattery.

Question: Did the British authorities know about your work against Iraq and for Israeli intelligence?

Answer: Yes, the British knew.

Question: How do you explain the fact that the British authorities, which granted you the travel documents, did not object to your spying against Iraq and for Israeli intelligence?

Answer: Israeli influence in Britain is strong and has a great effect on British political decisionmaking. In my opinion, the relationship is strong. The mutual interests between Britain and Israel are what made Britain submit in one way or another to the Israeli decisions.

Saddam Husayn Presides Over Cabinet Meeting

JN3110164589 Baghdad INA in English 1555 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 31, INA—President Saddam Husayn this morning presided over a more-than-four-hour cabinet meeting.

Among the topics discussed by the cabinet in its meeting were the law of exploiting the shores. It has been decided to submit a recommendation to the Revolution Command Council to amend certain articles of that law.

The cabinet meeting also discussed the study on establishing the offices of consultative expertise and their depending on discussions in practising their activities and the possibility of Iraqi offices' joining with Arab consultative offices. After discussing that, the cabinet made some amendments on the proposals included in the study.

The council also discussed the formulas of increasing the participation of women in the social, economic and cultural activities.

The cabinet also accepted a proposal to establish a joint Iraqi-Gulf company for industrial investment.

During the meeting, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz explained the mission of the U.N. Secretary General's Envoy Mr. Jan Eliasson to both Iraq and Iran concerning implementing the Security Council Resolution No. 598.

Mr. 'Aziz also reviewed the latest developments in the Arab region, particularly the al-Ta'if agreement and the recent developments in Sudan.

President Saddam Husayn expressed his thanks for those who participated in the drive of reconstructing al-Faw, the town of sacrifice and the gate of the great victory. He expressed confidence that they could produce higher level as the efforts were excellent and they represented a pride for Iraq. The victory realised by the Iraqis deserved those remarkable efforts, whether in terms of enthusiasm and keenness or the kind and volume of the work.

President Saddam Husayn said that man should live for work and should consider it a holy matter like faith and as considered by the almighty God as one of the basic principles of faith.

The president added that the level of inspiration, internal national motive and aspiration among the Iraqis is extremely high.

He said that the Iraqis are highly capable for being patient, therefore, what we need is the management in its human meaning to move the activities and to sufficiently clarify the target and the ways leading to it. [sentence as received]

President Saddam Husayn gave his instructions on the necessity of choosing the administrative staff from among the highly qualified and active ones so that they would be helpful in the success of the official with whom they work. He said that if anybody managed, from his position, to carry out this high level of administrative work, he would be doing miracles and would get rid of backwardness and would keep peace with the advanced countries.

President Husayn stressed that accordingly we want every one to develop his capabiliies and potentials. He said that the Iraqis must turn the time into a case of an additional innovation, otherwise they would be backward.

Baghdad Said Ready To Cooperate With Eliasson

JN3110115489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Oct (INA)— The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that Iran has prevented and is still preventing any progress in the peace process since the beginning of the cease-fire on 8 July 1988.

In an article today, the paper adds that Iran continues to avoid complying with the 8 July agreement and the exchange of prisoners in accordance with international laws and norms. The Iranian regime is still adhering to its retaliatory policies and procrastination in dealing with Security Council Resolution 598.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: When Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's personal representative, arrives in Baghdad today, he will see Iraq's sincerity, seriousness, and cooperation to implement Resolution 598 to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran, and in the entire region. Eliasson will not face any obstacle or problem that might prevent the success of his mission.

In conclusion, AL-THAWRAH calls on the international community to pressure the Iranian regime to adopt direct, serious negotiations and to abandon its exposed methods of maneuvering and procrastination.

UN's Jan Eliasson Arrives in Baghdad 31 Oct

JN0111082989 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Jan Eliasson, personal representative of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations, arrived at the head of a delegation in Baghdad last night on a several-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Eliasson said: During our presence in Baghdad, we will hold talks with Iraqi officials on the full and comprehensive implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598. He added that the state of no peace and no war should end, and that what is required now is to move toward comprehensive peace and to encourage the establishment of peace and cooperation in the region.

Sudanese RCC Member Arrives on Official Visit

JN3110183189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Oct (INA)—Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon leading a delegation on an official visit to Iraq.

The visiting delegation received an official welcome by 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the [Iraqi] Revolution Command Council.

Brigadier General al-Zubayr's delegation includes Ibrahim Sulayman, deputy chief of staff for supplies; 'Abd-al-Rahman Sulayman, general manager of the general institute for gasoline; and several other officials.

Shamir Assails Alignment's Stand on Peace Talks

TA0111061089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday said that a narrow-based government led by the Alignment would conduct negotiations with the PLO. He made these statements during a Likud rally preparatory to the Histadrut [nationwide trade union] elections in Netanya.

[Begin Shamir recording] There are those who come and call for the dissolution of the government and demand the establishment of a narrow-based government, a government meaning trouble for Israel [a pun on the Hebrew word tzara, which can mean either narrow or trouble]. They would like to call it a government of peace. With what justification? This would be a government whose guiding policy would not include the principle of an absolute no to negotiations with the PLO. On the contrary, negotiations with this organization would constitute its paramount principle [pounds on table]. I heard Rabin say: Yes, today we are fighting for peace. Whoever votes for the Alignment is actually voting for peace.

Who in Israel ever said that negotiations with the PLO mean peace? [end recording]

Shamir Continuing Preparations for U.S. Visit

TA0111063589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] The Washington administration has still not fixed a date for the meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. President George Bush. Sources close to the prime minister told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen that Mr Shamir is continuing his preparations for the visit and will leave for the United States even if he is not invited to the White House. When asked if the U.S. delay in setting a date is an attempt to pressure Israel, the sources replied that anyone who is familiar with Mr Shamir knows that this is not the way to behave with him. Our correspondent was told that, while visiting the United States, Prime Minister Shamir will be the guest of American Jewish organizations and participate in their annual convention.

David Levi Sees 'Insult' in U.S. 'Footdragging'

TA3110122489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has said again that the footdragging of the United States in setting a date for the meeting between Prime Minister Shamir and President Bush is a national insult to Israel. According to him, it is inconceivable that in issues where principles are involved, Washington should resort to such measures to impose its views on us. He added that relations between Israel and the United States are not as good as in the past and that he hopes they will improve soon.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Minister Levi made these remarks during a tour of the Golan Heights.

Peres Discusses Baker's 'Decision Not To Decide'

TA3110165689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Goni Mardor and 'Amiqam Rothman—live]

[Excerpt] [Mardor] Good evening, Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Mardor] Does the U.S. secretary of state's decision not to decide at this stage worry you?

[Peres] It is all a matter of phrasing. One must remember that the United States has in principle adopted the election plan, or the Israeli Government's peace plan. Mr Baker's document in fact refers to that peace initiative. I see no advantage in postponing the decision on it, if indeed it has been decided not to decide. I believe we must not forget that it is all our initiative. We knew exactly with which Palestinians we are to meet, more or less, and what the terms for that meeting would be. Consequently, when I read in the papers today that I reportedly support Mr Baker's five points, this is not exactly correct. The fact is that Mr Baker supports the State of Israel's peace initiative. I therefore suggest that it be adopted.

[Rothman] If it is all a matter of phrasing, as you say, perhaps things could be formulated differently?

[Peres] I agree, the question is whether the formulation would improve things or not. For example: Regarding the composition of the delegation, there were two or three options. One was that the United States, Israel, and Egypt would consult on the composition of the delegation. That seems reasonable to me. The second option was that these three countries would determine the composition of the delegation. I believe that this is something which cannot be otherwise formulated and is not a matter for acceptance or rejection. It is as though we were asked to decide on the composition of the Colombian soccer team [which held a World Cup qualifying match in Israel on 30 October]. It is a different country, a different nation, and people must understand this. But as in soccer, so also in politics—there are rules to the game.

The third possibility was that we would be informed of the composition of the delegation without consulting with us. If that is the amendment, it makes things worse. It does not improve things. Do you understand this?

[Rothman] Yes.

[Peres] In other words, what I say is, with respect to consultations, this is a reasonable request and I support it. As for an a priori determination of the composition, that appears to me to be impossible. It is a demand that will not be accepted. Mr Arens was initially convinced that this was what Mr Baker had promised him, and on this we sought written confirmation. As you know, nothing in writing has arrived.

As for the total absence of consultations with us, if this is the amendment, it means that the terms are worse, not better.

[Rothman] Since you mentioned soccer earlier, a scoreless tie [as in the Israel-Colombia match] is also a meaningful result, as we know. In this process, does that zero, or the stalemate that has been created, work against us? Or, should we perhaps sit down quietly for a while and not rush into things?

[Peres] What do you mean by not rushing into things? I do not understand. Do we or do we not want peace? What, really, would you like to wait for? After all, the peace initiative was decided upon. This government was in fact established for that purpose. It is not a soccer match. There are similarities, but some things are different. [laughs]

[Mardor] In that case, Mr Peres, how long will you wait? How long will you remain in the Cabinet?

[Peres] The difference is that we want a soccer match, not a game involving bullets [pun on the Hebrew word "kadur" which is used both for a ball and for a bullet] that kill people.

[Mardor] How long will you continue to play this game within the framework of the existing government?

[Peres] This is a question which I am not at all inclined to answer. When the time comes, we will say what we have to say. People are constantly trying to shift the argument over the peace process, which is at the heart of the matter, to the so-called end of the Cabinet's days. This is a conclusion that we will reach, if necessary. The current discussion, however, is over the peace process, and we rigorously object to it being moved from the center to the sidelines. The so-called end of the Cabinet has many components that make a sensational story, but it shifts the focus of attention away from the heart of the matter. [passage omitted]

Justice Minister Meridor Reviews Peace Process

TA3110163589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Telephone interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by 'Amiqam Rothman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Rothman] Justice Minister Dan Meridor, good evening.

[Meridor] Good evening.

[Rothman] We heard on the news that U.S. Secretary of State Baker has said that he will make no final decision during his 8-day absence from the United States. In other words, the Americans are in no hurry. Are we?

[Meridor] We would like to hasten the process, but we should not start running without being aware of what is happening around us. No one wants to drag out the preparations necessary to begin the move we initiated. On the other hand, one cannot ignore the fact that numerous complications cropped up in recent weeks. I suggest we do not put a gun to our own head or stand with a stopwatch in our hand, saying that if nothing happens until this or that date we will make extreme decisions. I think that, considering the Middle Eastern clock, we should be patient.

[Mardor] Nevertheless, there is a target date which is quite close, the prime minister's trip to Washington. If the prime minister leaves for Washington without the requested modifications being accepted, without any progress, is there any point to the trip?

[Meridor] The prime minister is visiting the United States. This is not the first time, and there is nothing special in Israeli prime ministers going to the United States. They meet the American Jewish community, the U.S. Administration, the press, and the Congress.

[Mardor] And perhaps with the President?

[Meridor] And perhaps with the President. In spite of all the importance of the meeting with President Bush, I would not like to focus the entire issue on one meeting or conversation.

[Rothman] But under these circumstances, would not the lack of a meeting between Shamir and Bush be construed as an insult? For instance, Minister Levi said that every Israeli should feel insulted. Do you feel insulted?

[Meridor] I still do not know what will happen in the United States. Until today, whenever a prime minister went to the United States under these conditions, there were top-level consultations with senior officials, including the President. I assume that this will be the case this time as well, but I do not think that a meeting between the Israeli prime minister and the U.S. President should be tied to any preconditions. During the 12 years since 1977, our countries have maintained relations that are comprised of a great deal of mutual interests, joint action, and mutual support in various fields. On the other hand, there are differences of opinion on central issues relating to Israel's future borders and other matters. There was never any linking, any attendant condition that had to be fulfilled to effect a meeting. We never paid, and we never will pay—and the Americans never paid and never will pay—for any meetings, in light of the relationship we enjoy.

[Mardor] Nevertheless, it is still uncertain whether the meeting will take place.

[Meridor] I do not know. I do not think that we should focus so much on this question.

[Rothman] So, if we stick to the issue of the five points, Mr Peres asked yesterday: Why not accept the five points as they are? The five points allow a lot of leeway in which we can take what we want and throw out the rest.

[Meridor] I do not feel that the central problem is this or that point. The central problem is which direction the process will take us from the crossroads at which we are standing today. We initiated a process, and you all remember that its core was our desire to hold negotiations for an interim agreement, a permanent settlement, autonomy, self-administration, and so forth—with elected representatives. Not with the PLO, or anyone else—only with the elected representatives. There is a population of 1.5 million people here, and they have no representation. The PLO is not an acceptable interlocutor for us. The Arab states do not want to speak for them. Let them elect representatives who will then talk to us and then we will have a clear process in which each side will submit his proposals.

Today the process is at a crossroads. There are those who desire to twist the process and lead us into negotiations, not with elected representatives, but with a delegation which would be appointed in some way or another by the PLO. This delegation would be managed and instructed by the PLO, and we most categorically know that the PLO is not interested in finding any way to calm the situation, to achieve a 5-year period of quiet, without terror or intifadah. We know that the PLO is not interested in sitting on the sidelines and not interferring, permitting a local leadership to come into being.

[Rothman] Justice Minister Dan Meridor, thank you.

Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General Named

TA0111082489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Nov 89 p 12

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Yehezqel Barne'a has been named deputy director-general of the Foreign Ministry, replacing Yesha'yahu 'Anug, who has retired. Barne'a, who recently headed the ministry's UN and International Organizations department, is a diplomat of 36 years, and has served in Asia, Europe and North America. 'Anug was honoured last night at a farewell party attended by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. 'Anug had earlier served as ambassador to Canada and head of the European division.

Officials Visit Egypt To Urge Release of Tanker

TA0111075789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Two senior officials from the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure are leaving for Egypt this morning to try to release the Israeli oil tanker Nyeta, which has been held in southern Sinai for almost 2 weeks after allegedly polluting the Straits of Tiran.

Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports that the officials will try to persuade the Egyptian legal authorities to release the ship's captain from jail.

Egypt Waiting for Israeli Reply to Baker Plan

TA3110182689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Egypt has still not delivered its response to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan. This statement was made today by Muhammad Basyuni, Egyptian ambassador to Israel. Our correspondent Dan Eshel spoke with Basyuni at the conclusion of a lecture given by the latter at the Teachers Union building in Tel Aviv.

[Begin recording] [Eshel] Egyptian Ambassador Basyuni said that Egypt has not yet come to a decision and, among other things, is still waiting to see the Israeli response to Baker's five-point plan.

[Basyuni, in English] You know, we are also cooperating and coordinating with the Palestinians to have their reply, and we will submit it to Mr Baker. There are clarifications. There is discussion. We are waiting, and we also want to see what is the Israeli reply to it [the Baker proposal].

[Eshel] We asked Basyuni how long he thinks it will take.

[Basyuni, in English] I think that it will not stay a long time. I think we are waiting and we will see. Be optimistic. I am optimistic as usual. [end recording]

Syria Makes 'Approaches' to U.S. Jewish Leaders

TA0111065389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Nov 89 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Syrian officials initiated contacts last month with a major American Jewish organization and said that Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam—who was scheduled to address the UN—would be willing to meet with Jewish leaders in an effort to create ties with the American Jewish community, sources in New York told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

The sources said the Jewish leaders had rejected the meeting because they did not want to get involved in Middle East diplomacy.

According to the sources, a top Syrian diplomat in the U.S. phoned a major American Jewish organization last month and said that Khaddam would be willing to meet with "progressive Jews" in New York.

Asked whether the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the plight of Syrian Jewry, the diplomat replied that the aim was the "bettering of relations with the American Jewish community."

The sources added that there had been other Syrian approaches, but declined to give dates.

The fact that the meeting did not occur led the sources to speculate that Israel was not in favour of such meetings. "The prerogative of foreign policy remains with the Israeli government," one source said.

Asked about the significance of the Syrian approach, Prof. Moshe Ma'oz of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem said: "If it occurred, it was unprecedented."

THE POST has confirmed that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with a Jewish leader, Malcolm Hoenlein, in New York on October 5. The meeting took place after the foreign minister addressed the Council on Foreign Relations. It is not clear, however, whether the meeting was coordinated in advance.

Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of major American Jewish Organizations, told THE POST on Monday that he had met with a "senior Syrian official" to discuss the plight of Israeli POWS and Syrian Jews, and said that the Syrians had promised to respond to his requests on these issues. It has since been learned that the "senior official" was Al-Shar'.

According to some observers, the recent Syrian outreach to American Jews may be credited to Eduard Menem, the brother of Argentina's president Carlos Menem, who is that country's ambassador to Damascus. The Argentinian president, who is of Syrian extraction, promised American Jewish leaders visiting Buenos Aires that he would work to help the Syrian Jewish community and seek to free Israeli POWS.

Shamir Notes Improvement in East Bloc Ties

TA3110201689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister has said that further improvement in ties with East European countries has been noted recently. He said Israel is hoping that diplomatic relations with Poland will be reestablished, and it is looking forward to the visit of the Hungarian premier to Israel. According to Mr Shamir, who was speaking to FRG reporters in his office, the Soviet Union's attitude also has improved, as displayed by the larger number of exit visas issued to Jews and by the presence of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen adds that the prime minister also said that if the USSR renews diplomatic relations with Israel, it could participate in the peace process.

Czechoslovakia 'Interested' in Developing Ties

TA0111095289 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Nov 89 p 13

[Report by Yehuda Lahav, correspondent in Prague]

[Text] "Czechoslovakia is interested in developing its personal, economic, and cultural ties with Israel," said Ivan Voles, director of the Middle East Department in the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to our correspondent.

Voles added that "soon—around 1 January—all procedures connected with Israelis' tourist visas to Czechoslovakia will be made easier."

Responding to my question about the possibility of Czechoslovakia also resuming diplomatic relations with Israel, Voles said that when viewed in the perception of 1989, the severing of relations is an extraordinary act to which Czechoslovakia would not resort at this time. "In our view, maintaining diplomatic relations is a natural condition, and it should not be used as a tool in any country's policies."

Poland 'Definitely' Plans To Move Convent

TA3110120489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The Polish deputy justice minister says that his government has definitely decided to move the Carmelite convent from the Auschwitz death camp site. According to him, the conduct of the Jews who visited the site was aggressive and prompted similar aggression on the part of the Polish workers.

He further said that although anti-Semitism still exists in Poland, it is not a serious phenomenon because there are almost no Jews in Poland.

Deputy Minister Adam Stambacz made these remarks in a talk with Serge Kovac, the Voice of Israel French Department reporter. Mr Stambacz is in Israel representing the Polish Holocaust Research Institute at the Yad Vashem convention for Holocaust commemoration.

Figures on Soviet Jewry Emigration Reported

TA0111083189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Nov 89 p 12

[Report by Charles Hoffman]

[Text] Over 9,190 Jews left the Soviet Union last month, with 1,464 of them coming to Israel, the Jewish Agency Aliya Department reported yesterday. So far this year, 51,080 Jews have left, with 7,275 coming here. Since the beginning of the year, invitations to settle here have been sent to 284,550 Soviet Jews, who need these documents to apply for exit visas.

Paper Sizes Up New UK Foreign Secretary Hurd

TA2910084589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Oct 89 p 2

[Report by David Horovitz]

[Excerpts] If Israeli officials were lamenting, three months ago, that they knew little of new British foreign secretary John Major's views on the Middle East, last week's appointment of Douglas Hurd as his successor presents them with a man about whom they must feel they know all too much. [passage omitted]

In complete contrast to Major, Hurd, 59, is a career diplomat who spent 14 years rising through the foreign service, via postings in Peking, Rome and at the UN in New York.

Israelis got their first sight of him in the late 1960s, when he visited the country as political secretary to the then Conservative leader Edward Heath. In 1979 he was back again, this time in a rather more public role, having entered Parliament and been appointed Foreign Office minister of state with special responsibility for the Middle East—the David Mellor or William Waldegrave of his day. [passage omitted]

While Hurd is perceived here as a confirmed Arabist—a view reinforced over the years by statements such as his 1986 assertion that it was "a borderline case" whether the Palestinians were entitled to use violence in pursuit of their goals—he is generally regarded in Britain as one of the most decent and fair-minded of Thatcher's ministers, as well as being among the most intelligent. [passage omitted]

Eton- and Cambridge-educated, the son and grandson of members of Parliament, Hurd in the past two years has gradually pushed his government towards legislation that would facilitate the prosecution of Nazi war crimes suspects. Initially he rejected evidence that alleged Nazis were living in Britain as "very sketchy," but as it became increasingly clear that such people were indeed in Britain, he switched his position completely.

Israeli officials might take some comfort from this. Whatever his record on the Middle East, they will at least be dealing with a minister who when convinced that he has been wrong in the past, is evidently quite prepared to change his mind.

Oil Shale Power Station To Produce Electricity

TA0111083589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Nov 89 p 8

[Report by Larry Derfner]

[Text] Israel's first plant to produce electricity from oil shale, the country's only abundant fossil fuel resource, started operating last week, the Energy Ministry announced yesterday.

The station was scheduled to begin energy production during the summer, and the delay in getting underway has added substantially to the $30 million cost forecast made a year ago.

The power plant, located in the Rotem plains about 25 kms south of Dimona, should add 4.5 megawatts of electricity to the 4,260-Mw national grid and provide heat for the phosphate factories in the area.

The station, built by government-owned PAMA (Energy Resources Development) Ltd., is expected to be the start of a $500-million, 600-Mw oil shale electricity complex, which the Energy Ministry hopes to complete by the year 2000.

While the existing plant will burn shale to produce electricity, the most ambitious use of the shale would be for the extraction of liquid oil. The northern Negev is believed to contain enough shale to fill Israel's oil needs for nearly a century.

PAMA began constructing a demonstration plant to extract liquid oil from the shale after the 1982 oil crisis, but the project was shelved when the falling price of oil made the plant uneconomical.

Settlers' Unit To Conduct Security Operations

TA0111070189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command has authorized the recruitment of the first IDF [Israel Defense Forces] company made up of settlers who are residents of Judaea and Samaria. The company will conduct routine security operations in the territories. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the first unit will be drafted next week. The unit will be composed of reserve soldiers from the Binyamin District settlements and it will be stationed in the Hebron area.

Over the past 2 years, elements inside the IDF and the security forces had opposed using settlers for security activity in the territories. The leaders of the settlers had several times asked the defense minister and Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the former Central Command commander, to allow the settlers to participate in such activities.

Maj Gen Mordekhay decided to look into the matter and eventually the defense minister and the chief of staff endorsed the establishment of one unit on a trial basis.

IDF Concludes Tax Crackdown in Bayt Sahur

TA3110143989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] this afternoon lifted the closure from Bayt Sahur, thus concluding the tax-collection drive in the town. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, emphasized that tax collection will continue and that law and order will be enforced in Bayt Sahur as well as throughout all of Judaea and Samaria. He pointed out that the operation was organized and tidy, despite attempts by violent elements from inside and outside the town to organize a tax revolt and incite the town's residents. Erez said that in his opinion, the operation achieved all of its goals.

Of 40 people who refused to pay taxes and were arrested during the tax-collection drive, 35 were indicted. Four residents already have been tried and sentenced to 180 days in prison or paying a fine of 6,000 shekels.

Brig Gen Erez asserted that the organized revolt in Bayt Sahur has been smashed.

Upon the lifting of the closure, hundreds of residents gathered on Bayt Sahur's main street. Some of them told our correspondent that despite the lengthy closure their spirit had not been broken, adding that they were proud to be a symbol of the intifadah.

Security Forces Disperse East Jerusalem Rioters

TA3110181889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Policemen and border policemen used rubber bullets to disperse stone throwers in the Old City of Jerusalem this evening. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that some of the rioters were apprehended. The incident was sparked when stones were thrown at yeshiva students on Hashalshelet Street. No one was hurt. A Border Police unit that arrived at the scene encountered a barrage of rocks and cinder blocks and reacted by firing rubber bullets and tear gas canisters.

11 Reported Wounded in Clashes in Territories

TA0111103989 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Nov 89 p A6

[Excerpts] Relative quiet prevailed yesterday in the territories. Palestinian sources reported that 11 residents were wounded in clashes with the security forces, including 10 in the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

The report that an 'Ayn 'Arik youth was allegedly shot by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol on the al-Tayyibah-Jericho road was disproved yesterday. Other incidents in the territories:

—A Molotov cocktail was hurled at an IDF patrol in Nabulus. There were no casualties. [passage omitted]

—Palestinian sources in Bayt Immar, north of Hebron, reported that a local youth sustained a gunshot injury in a clash with the IDF. It has been learned from Kafr Ni'mah near Ramallah and from Qalqilyah that a tax-collecting operation is being conducted there. [passage omitted]

—At noon yesterday, an Israeli ambulance was stoned on the Shu'fat road in northern Jerusalem.

—A truck belonging to an Arab resident of the village of Bayt Hanina was torched at dawn yesterday. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 1 November, in a page 7 report by Mikhal Qedem, Oren Kohen, Sulayman al-Shafa'i, and Shim'on Elqabetz, adds: "The Gaza military court yesterday gave Jamal 'Abdallah Qasid, 22, from Dayr al-Balah 10 years in prison and 5 years suspended sentence for throwing a Molotov cocktail at an IDF patrol."

Elsewhere in the report, it is stated that "ex-policeman Khalil Abu-Dan from Jericho was yesterday attacked and severely wounded by residents who thought that he still serves in the police. After beating him, they doused his car with gasoline and set it on fire."]

Agreement To Reschedule Debts Signed With U.S.

JN3110181589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The governments of Jordan and the United States signed an agreement today to reschedule U.S. loans extended to Jordan by various U.S. institutions. The accord will be the basis for executive agreements with a number of Jordan's U.S. creditors. The accord was signed by Finance Minister Basil Jardanah and the U.S. ambassador to Amman.

10 Arrested in Connection With Petra Bank Case

JN3110170489 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Amman, 31 Oct (PETRA)—PETRA has learned that the committee investigating the Petra Bank issue has ordered the detention of 10 people for interrogation. They include six employees of the bank and four clients who had close relations with the bank's previous management.

The arrests were made on 29 and 30 October. Investigations are still under way.

Editor on Keeping Religion Out of Politics

JN3110123889 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Oct 89 p 15

[Article by Chief Editor Sultan al-Hattab: "Tujan Faysal Is a Bead in a Rosary Which They Are Trying To Cut Off its String; No Custodians Over the People's Minds; The Constitution Is the Only Umbrella, Anything Other Than This Is a Violation That Must Be Confronted; Our Islam Is the Islam of Arabism and Not That of Religious Groups; Woman Is Half of the Society, and Her Opinion Is Respected Just as the Man's Opinion; Koran and the Prophet's Sunna are Clear, and We Do Not Need the Interpretations of Tricksters"]

[Excerpts] A fact which must be made loud and clear, and whose responsibilities must be shouldered, is that some ignorant and naive religious people who are tied to the strings of their actions are trying to sell us—in the name of Islam and religion—rotten goods that were not examined or judged by reason, logic, or criticism.

Many naive people who are motivated by the whims and interests of some groups that took on Islam as a cover and coated their tongues with the tolerance of our society and its traditional Islamic identity have sought to make their stands and opinions clear and to distort the image that we have inherited, to a point where they are trying to destroy this image.

Sometimes they contact newspapers and news media to rebuke them and interfere in their affairs through intimidation and threats to boycott them, to file charges against them, and to pursue them.

At other times, they impose themselves as custodians of people's minds, and most of the times they are taken by hallucinations, naivete, and sadistic tendencies to forbid what God allows us. They are making the lawful unlawful and the easy uneasy, and argue with God and His prophet to show that they are influential people.

Some of them have turned into a gang that is using intimidation, temptation, and blackmail, and granting writs of excommunication and forgiveness to itself and to others through an organized repudiation and renunciation of their environment, and even their families and the sons of their society of those who did not follow their whims or their own religion that is stamped with religious trademarks and with the seals of the policies of several capitals.

What is it that some of the naive and stupid people want? Shall we allow them to confiscate our social achievements in return for promises that have no place except in their minds? Shall we allow them to obliterate the bright spots in our life, to make them dark by canceling our minds, and by killing and liquidating people for what they have in mind? Why do we need proof of what we say when we have in front of us examples of decisive evidence of political practices that have burned the region and driven it to the abyss in the name of religion? Why should we replace our minds and awareness to pay them as bills to a group of stupid and crazy people, who, through their naive beliefs, imagine that they can shape an image for others and rebuild the world?

They have infiltrated us from several directions to obliterate our Arab identity and to distort our pan-Arab affiliation, which constitute our roots to the past and our branches by which we are known in this world. They are awakening al-Shu'ubiyah [a movement within the early Islamic commonwealth of nations which refused to recognize the privileged position of the Arabs] to skin the flesh from our bones, and to confine our thinking to punishment stipulated in Islam, without adopting Islam as jurisprudence and an interpretation to build a better life. They have infiltrated among us to harm the boy, the woman, and the future. Because they have failed to deceive people because the majority of our people are educated and enlightened, they have resorted to intimidation, threats, and siege.

What kind of religion do they have that considers others outcast infidels? What kind of religion is it that they are advocating, which is not based on tolerance, but on crudeness, roughness, and rebukes? What kind of religion is this by which they want to replace our true Islam—the Islam of Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessing be upon him, and of his companions and followers? What kind of religion is this which advocates the shedding of innocent people's blood, advocates imprisonment, killing, and pursuing them if they express their opinion, discuss an issue, or reply to a fool, crazy, or a liar of the group that takes Islam as a cover and capitalizes on it. What kind of religion is this which lies in wait for women to distort their image and defame

them, and focuses on her body and charming qualities on the pretext of preventing sedition?

Why do some people here raise a hue and cry because a lady named Tujan Faysal expressed an opinion? Why is she defamed and made a target of a smear campaign? Why are her children and husband being slandered? Why is her killing sanctioned? And lastly, why is she considered an apostate and an atheist?

Tujan Faysal is an example which they want to set and use to burn our tongues, minds, conscience, our yearning for truth, and our desire for a responsible and constructive freedom.

They want Tujan Faysal to be the first bead pulled apart from the rosary making up our society. If this bead which is envisaged as prey and an example is successfully removed, they will seek to pull apart the entire rosary.

Let us vindicate our social makeup in the face of the evil hands extending in the dark and in public.

Let the will of the faithful be used to confront the forces of evil. Let the bright Islam, the tolerant religion, and the unanimous religious resolutions [agreed upon by religious scholars] acceptable to our prophet, to our nation, and to our jurisprudents be the yardstick used between us and them. Let us say while we can: "Come to common terms as between ourselves and you." [Part of Koranic verse]

Nowadays, they are soliciting the support of their henchmen and concealing the content of their writings; and yet they want us to buy packaged, rotten goods. They know the contents of these goods, just as well as we do. Yet, they seek to use the name of God, which they defiled when they carried out tyrannical acts, inflicted harm unfairly, and slandered and terrorized people.

In the arena of democracy, which most often costs dearly because it is the medicine for the sick and the window that lets in the light, we would like to ask the following legitimate questions: First and foremost, what are your programs for life on this earth? And what will be your contribution to the edifice of construction? Such a contribution must fall within the framework of acceptable common denominators. It must also honor the Constitution governing all of us and in which we all believe.

As for your programs for the hereafter, and for the use of pretexts whose makers and sources are well-known to us, we would like to say to them that their goods will be returned to them. We have the Koran and the prophet's sunna. We will not go astray as long as we adhere to them, as long as we have minds and a conscience, and as long as we have numerous religious scholars who are good at the science of hadith [prophet Muhammad's sayings and deeds], authentication, and rejection ['ilm al-Jarh wa al-ta'dil] capable of distinguishing between good and bad, and capable of opposing and warning against your dangerous religious goods which must first meet the right standards and specifications. Besides, these goods must be judged against the tolerance of Islam and the basic tenets of Islam—thinking, ideology, and behavior. This is important, because it will spare us the agony of taking your hadiths, which are liable to different interpretations from the clear ones which we cherish and uphold. It will spare us from buying fraudulent hadiths instead of adhering to our well-established ones, of accepting your interrupted hadiths for the hadiths authenticated by many lines of transmission. This would also spare us the pain of accepting your guesswork for our certainty, of endorsing your numerous books at the expense of our book in which the following Koranic verse was revealed: "We have set it down as an Arabic Koran in order that ye may learn wisdom." [Koranic verse]

The Arabism of the Koran is not confined to its language. No, it is a firm description of that book. How, then, do you seek to use the Koran to render us non-Arabs and to have the upper hand over us through your use of external forces?

How do you seek to consider Arabism, which has been one of the Koran's characteristics, as a rejected epithet characteristic of the rotten pre-Islamic traditions while continuing to profess your Islam? [passage omitted]

The tolerance of Islam contained in it is too great and strong to be distorted by some of the mentally retarded and feebleminded. It is also too great and strong to be concealed by their artificial education. Moreover, its firmness allows it to weather this artificial education imposed through the behavior of the mobs. Islam is the religion of all the people. It should not be a commodity sold by some groups to others. Besides, it should not be used by certain groups to exercise influence over other groups or to make it their distinctive trait.

Those who seek to make us admit that we are a corrupt society of infidels and deviants seek to sell us a medicine which we do not need. Besides, they seek to exact an admission that we are guilty when we have in fact committed no crime at all. Moreover, we still profess to be disciples to Islam as a religion.

Doing business with religion has become too repulsive and nauseating. This business must be encircled and checked. The meals provided by this business must be examined to make sure that there is no contamination involved. That is because some seek to poison the goods and to bring them in through a Trojan horse using a religious trademark that has no backing in any Koranic verse or in any of the prophet's hadiths. Some seek to make our religion a child of politics, tossed here and there to serve their own purposes, of which they and we are fully aware. This is being done in an attempt to bypass a reality that we need to remedy and to delude us into believing that they have magical solutions, that Moses' staff is in their possession, and that they can make it do whatever they like.

We are for the purity and tolerance of Islam, and for its message that has shaped the essence of our Arabism and

pan-Arab identity. However, we are not for the Islam of some elements, which they are attempting to impose on us after creating forms, behaviors, approaches, and views that conflict with our understanding of Islam.

What can we do when a physics and mathematics teacher teaches what he sees of Islam during mathematics class without consulting with the administrators of the school, institute, or university, or consulting with the Islamic education teacher, or asking the students' permission before changing their classes and courses? What can we do when a certain group, whose background, actions, and financial incomes and earnings are known, imposes itself as the custodian of the ethics of the society, and distributes to people—individuals and groups—identity cards of faith and infidelity and writs of excommunication and forgiveness? What can we do when some preachers climb the prophet's rostrum to tell us something that has nothing to do with the prophet or with the ethics of Islam, while in fact they exploit the prophet's rostrum to sell their listeners bad goods and talk that does not serve religion, reason, logic, or future generations? What can we do when some elements who interfere in our domestic affairs ask us to give up our ethics, conduct, and culture to sell us strange ideas, actions, and conduct which they believe to be sound and correct?

I believe that there are in the street cultural and ideological goods that contain a lot of rotten stuff, wrapped with personal objectives, and covered by something that does not expose their contents and essence. We must be cautious and alert when we buy, consume, or deal with these goods. If some of us are not aware of what we are saying, then we will leave with them some evidence that fills more than one page in history and geography books to discern how many people have infiltrated into posts, positions, and institutions in the name of religion, and then disavowed what they used to advocate and turned their promises and calls into a means to achieve personal objectives and ambitions.

The time is now ripe to scrutinize what is being said in the name of religion, what is being sold at the expense of piety and ethics, and what is being administered in the street of political slogans that are aimed at recruiting naive people, deceiving them, driving them to the unknown, foiling their efforts and contributions, and placing them in confines that conflict with their lives and the convictions and objectives of their society.

How can we understand the actions of some naive and confused people who came to the holy mosque [in Mecca] only to destroy it and wreak havoc in it? How can we understand the annihilation of peoples under misleading slogans and promises of a paradise, whose keys are made of cheap plastic? How can we understand those who seek to shake our self-confidence, to turn each one of us against the other, and to weaken our will of reason and aspiration? How can we understand the man who seeks to make the body of a woman an issue of the entire society and nation, and to give it top priority over all other issues which confront us with violent challenges?

We feel that those who understand Islam as a religion of action, production, tolerance, as well as a call to wisdom and sound argument, are being accused and besieged by others, because they refuse to say that the Islam of the ignorant and the evil is their Islam, and because they follow the right course of Islam and worship God and not idols, and because they are not affiliated with corrupt slogans, schools, groups, parties, lodges, or organizations.

Islam is clear, and those who turn to Islam need no guides or labyrinths. The lawful and the unlawful are also clear; true Islam is the Islam that was followed by the prophet's companions. The prophet warned against the carving of Islam when he said: "My followers will be divided into 72 groups, one in paradise, and the rest in hell." [passage omitted]

Saudi Official 'Assassinated' in West Beruit

NC0111110489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Saudi diplomat 'Ali al-Marzuqi was assassinated in Tallat al-Khayyat in West Beirut this morning and his Syrian driver was wounded when gunmen in a passing car opened fire on them. According to available details, while al-Marzuqi, an attache in a Saudi Embassy, was preparing to enter his car in Tallat al-Khayyat, he was hit by bursts of gunfire fired by unknown gunmen in a grey vehicle whose license number and model remain unknown. The Saudi diplomat died instantly and his Syrian driver, Ahmad Sa'id Sallum, sustained hand injuries. It has not yet been learned if the Saudi diplomat had been stationed in Beirut or abroad. The Saudi Embassy in Lebanon has been closed since 1985.

The assassination comes at a time when efforts are being made to implement the al-Ta'if agreement which was sponsored by Saudi Arabia and the Arab tripartite committee.

Judge Munif 'Uwaydat, court of appeals public prosecutor; Zahi Kan'an, public attorney of appeals; Lieutenant Colonel Fayiz Rahhal, commander of Beirut's regional company; and Captain Muhammad Qasim, commander of the al-Musaytibah area platoon, are holding a meeting to discuss the circumstances of the incident.

More on Assassination

NC0111113689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Muhammad al-Marzuqi [name as heard], a Saudi embassy personnel official, was assassinated at 0930 today, and his driver, Ahmad Sallum, was slightly wounded when unidentified gunmen opened fire at their car in the Tallat al-Khayyat area.

The details of the incident follow:

As Al-Marzuqi was being driven in his grey Mazda by Ahmad Sallum in front of the Burj al-Tall building in Tallat al-Khayyat square at 0930 today, three unidentified gunmen opened fire at him, using pistols equipped with silencers. Al-Marzuqi was hit in the head and died instantly. His driver sustained back and hand injuries. The gunmen fled to an unknown destination. Al-Marzuqi's body was taken to the American University hospital.

It has been learned that Al-Marzuqi, an employee of the Saudi Embassy in Beirut, used to move between Beirut and Damascus and that he had his headquarters at the Saudi cultural attache's office in the Verdun area. [passage omitted]

'Pro-Iranian Factions' Accused

JN0111143689 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Muhammad al-Marzuqi, Saudi Embassy personnel manager in Lebanon, was assassinated this morning. Gunmen opened fire on the victim with machineguns in the Tallat al-Khayyat area in West Beirut. The Saudi diplomat died instantly, while his Lebanese [as heard] driver was seriously wounded.

It is well-known that the Saudi Embassy, located in West Beirut, has been closed since 1985. The Saudi diplomat was there only to assist in some important matters.

An INA correspondent in Beirut quoted Lebanese security sources as saying that they believe that pro-Iranian factions are behind the assassination. So far, no organization has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Islamic Jihad Claims Murder

NC0111145189 Paris AFP in English 1446 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Beirut, Nov 1 (AFP)—The underground Islamic Jihad group, which holds two American hostages in Lebanon, claimed responsibility for the murder Wednesday of a Saudi diplomat in Syrian-controlled West Beirut.

In a statement received by a Western news agency, Islamic Jihad said the diplomat, 'Ali Marzuq [as received] was "an important officer of the Saudi intelligence services in Lebanon."

The group authenticated its statement with a photograph of U.S. journalist Terry Anderson, who has been held by Islamic Jihad since March 16, 1985.

Mr Marzuq, an attache at the Saudi Embassy, which has been closed since 1984, was shot dead outside his home in mainly Moslem West Beirut from a passing car. His Syrian driver was slightly wounded.

It was the latest in a series of attacks targetting Saudi diplomats abroad.

Further on Assassination

NC0111160789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1535 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Saudi diplomat 'Ali al-Marzuq was assassinated and his Syrian driver Ahmad Sa'id Sallum was wounded by gunmen in West Beirut today.

According to security sources, the gunmen were riding in a green Volvo. The driver, who was taken to the American University hospital for treatment of minor wounds in his hand, affirmed that the diplomat is an attache in the Saudi Embassy.

The murdered man was about to get into his car in Tallat al-Khayyat when gunmen suddenly fired on him. Security sources told REUTER that al-Marzuq was in his seventies and was chief accountant at the Saudi Embassy.

The Islamic Jihad Organization has claimed responsibility for the assassination of Saudi diplomat 'Ali al-Marzuq.

In a statement delivered to a Western news agency in West Beirut, the organization said al-Marzuq was an important Saudi intelligence officer in Lebanon. The statement was accompanied by a photo of American hostage Terry Anderson, who has been held by the same organization since March 1985.

Al-Marzuq is married to a Lebanese and has been living in Lebanon for more than 10 years.

The Islamic Jihad Organization last week pledged to avenge itself against Saudi Arabia for the execution of the Kuwaitis.

Another radical group, Hizballah al-Hijaz, a Hizballah branch in Saudi Arabia, also had pledged to avenge what it termed the massacre.

The attack on Al-Marzuq is the ninth such attack on Saudi diplomats in various countries over the past 3 years.

Decree Dissolving Chamber Already Signed

NC0111071689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has called on the deputies to return, promising to guarantee their safety and freedom of expression and travel. He stressed that there will be no session of the Chamber of Deputies before they return and warned that he will dissolve the Chamber of Deputies if an attempt is made to hold a session before the deputies return.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-DIYAR conducted last night, Gen 'Awn said: Some deputies contacted me and I told them they were welcome but this did not mean that I was inviting them to come to hold an election and then leave, but rather that they would return to hold consultations and try to reach an understanding. If they then wish to leave the country again, I will not prevent any of them from doing so.

He declared: I assert that I will guarantee the deputies' safety and their freedom of expression. Let us also seek the people's judgment. The deputies want to hold elections. However, before doing that there is the question of the constitutional violations which they perpetrated in al-Ta'if when they accepted the accord. I possess a stronger decision: the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies.

'Awn added: I will not use any weapon other than my legitimate and constitutional powers. I will not allow any physical harassment of the deputies. When I dissolve the Chamber of Deputies, any elections they hold and any decision they make will be legally and constitutionally invalid. The prime minister said: As to the penalties for their violation of the Constitution and the law, these penalties will be implemented.

'Awn stated that the deputies cannot disregard the people and the legitimate government with whom they must consult over the al-Ta'if agreement and the elections issue before holding any session.

Gen 'Awn refused to allow the holding of a session of the Chamber of Deputies in al-Diman and noted that the Chamber's dissolution will be based upon constitutional violations perpetrated by the deputies. He said these violations will be announced along with the decision dissolving the Chamber.

The newspaper AL-ANWAR reported that during yesterday's cabinet meeting, Gen 'Awn signed, along with his government, a decree dissolving the Chamber of Deputies. The decree will be proclaimed next Friday unless the deputies return from abroad.

'Usayran on 'Awn's Demands

NC3010155389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran met with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today. 'Usayran expressed the hope that the presidential elections will be held before 7 November. He said: All attention is riveted in this direction. If we surmount this obstacle, we will eliminate the effects of the recent events.

'Usayran noted that 'Awn does not have the power to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies. If he does such a thing, the deputies will not accept it and will continue their mission, 'Usayran said.

'Usayran said that if he is asked to, he is ready to broker 'Awn's demands with the government.

Cabinet Holds 'Extraordinary Session' Under 'Awn

NC2910110589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] The cabinet held an extraordinary session under General Michel 'Awn at the B'abda Palace this morning, during which general and political issues both at home and abroad were discussed.

The cabinet endorsed appropriate measures and decided to keep its session open.

'Awn To Announce 'Important Measures' 2 Nov

NC0111094689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn met with Arab tripartite committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi in B'abda Palace at 1030 today.

Earlier today, 'Awn chaired a meeting of the Internal Security Council in his capacity as interior minister. The council, which comprises the directors of the state security organs, discussed current developments. The meeting has not been officially closed.

Gen 'Awn is expected to hold a news conference at noon tomorrow in which he will announce important measures.

Further Reportage on Reaction to Al-Ta'if Accord

Al-Amin, IUM Leader Comment

NC2810092389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] His Eminence Ibrahim al-Amin told our radio that the source of the Lebanese problem is the hegemony of political Maronism and that the key to the solution is the abolition of the political sectarianism. Thus, he said, any procedural or constitutional progress not based on the abolition of the political sectarianism will remain within the framework of the current regime and will consolidate political Maronism.

Al-Amin said the Maronites managed an al-Ta'if document to prevent the Muslims from reaching basic posts in the system and to retain their positions. He affirmed the content of the document serves the national Maronite homeland and Western Lebanon [Lubnan al-Gharbi], which is a colonial base.

Meanwhile, Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement [IUM], has affirmed that the al-Ta'if meeting is a conspiracy by America, Israel, and a number of European countries to counter the Islamic surge in order to rebuild a new Maronite regime.

He said the Zionist entity is using this opportunity provided by the al-Ta'if meetings to weaken the Islamic resistance in Lebanon by sending additional forces to southern Lebanon.

Committee Denounces 'Awn Stand

NC2910071989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] A Muslim 'ulema committee statement condemned 'Awn's stand yesterday, describing it as hostile to Lebanon and the Arab nation.

The statement said the departure of 'Awn and his gang from the Lebanese, Arab, and international consensus by rejecting the al-Ta'if accord and attempting to undermine the Casablanca summit resolutions have once again proved that he is an agent and is entangled in the dangerous conspiracy. He is implementing this conspiracy in the service of his Zionist masters against Lebanon, the Lebanese people, and the Arab nation.

The Muslim 'ulema committee viewed the al-Ta'if accord as a good beginning toward Lebanese reconciliation and accord and ending the destructive war.

Ba'th Party Official on Accord

NC2910131389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] 'Abdallah al-Amin, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, has said the al-Ta'if accord does not express the views of all the Lebanese because it has not specified a time for abolishing the political sectarianism, which he described as an important step toward a political solution in Lebanon.

He hoped that a president of the Republic will be elected soon, and that a solution can be achieved by bringing down the political sectarianism.

He called for bringing down General 'Awn, noting that all citizens demand peace in Lebanon.

Junblatt on U.S., French Stands

NC3010071989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] [Progressive Socialist Party Leader] Walid Junblatt has reasserted in Damascus his stand on the al-Ta'if document, noting it will not achieve reconciliation in Lebanon.

He asked if Washington wants a solution in Lebanon or if it wants to keep Syria preoccupied in Lebanon to push through the Palestinian solution through the 10-point plan.

He also wondered if France would accept a unified Lebanon with the reconsideration of the 1943 formula and what he termed the Maronite privilege or if France wants only a smaller Lebanon of Christian nature and to relinquish areas of Christian minorities such as Tripoli, 'Akkar, Sidon, al-Hirmil, and al-Biqa'.

Al-Huss: 'New Horizons' Opened

NC3110133089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has urged the Arab nation to drum up its support for Lebanon and to help it ride out its ordeal.

In a news statement, Dr al-Huss said: After reaching the al-Ta'if agreement, which has opened new horizons for an impending solution, Lebanon relies its Arab brothers to help steer it to safety. Dr al-Huss pointed out that he has approved the al-Ta'if agreement so that the ongoing

efforts could advance toward a solution and so that the Chamber of Deputies could hold its session. Prime Minister al-Huss noted that each deputy will then be able to discuss the provisions of this agreement in the manner that he wishes.

Amal Movement Leader Reacts

NC3010151989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi met with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri this afternoon. Following the meeting, Ibrahimi said: I thanked brother Nabih Birri for the cooperation we have received from him and the Amal Movement. He is cooperating with us to end this war and enable Lebanon to restore its vitality and end its ordeal. Brother Birri has well-known positions which he has not concealed, but he realizes the salvation of Lebanon requires compromise solutions and acceptance of what the Lebanese have agreed upon. We thank him for his cooperation and affirm we will continue our work.

For his part, Birri said: This was a frank meeting during which we discussed the past stage and the coming one. We conveyed to brother Ibrahimi the Amal Movement's well-known position on the so-called al-Ta'if accord. This accord is the accord of the princes and not the accord of the poor. It does not fulfill the ambitions of the deprived or the nationalists. We stressed to Mr Ibrahimi that we would cooperate to maintain calm and to avoid a conflagration. We consider the accord a cease-fire that is binding on us. We support anyone who works in this direction.

Soviet, Chinese Envoys Comment

NC3110173889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] After meeting with Ambassador Faruq Abu-al-Lam' [secretary general of the Foreign Ministry], Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha said Abu-al-Lam' had briefed him on 'Awn and his clique's complaint to the UN Security Council. Kolotusha promised to report this to the Soviet Foreign Ministry for discussion and decisions.

He hoped for the election of a president and the revival of Lebanon as a unified, sovereign, and independent state.

Asked about the consequences of the al-Ta'if accord's not being implemented, Kolotusha said: I prefer not to think of this issue at all.

For his part, after his meeting with Abu-al-Lam', Chinese Ambassador Yang Gu Hao affirmed his government's sympathy with the Lebanese people and said his government supports the Arab tripartite committee's efforts.

France's Position 'Unclear'

NC3110163689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Western diplomatic sources have attributed the Lebanese parliamentary delegation's failure to meet with French officials in Paris yesterday to France's unclear stand on the al-Ta'if declaration. This, the sources added, has created political resentment among the Lebanese deputies who had met with Moroccan King Hassan II, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and earlier with Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

The same sources said that the lukewarm French attitude toward the al-Ta'if agreement is the subject of discussion and debate at the Arab higher committee, which comprises the Saudi and Moroccan kings and the Algerian president. The sources went so far as to say that the French attitude gives strength to General Michel 'Awn in the eastern area.

Ba'th Party Official Comments

NC3110160789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] 'Abdallah al-Amin, regional secretary of the Syrian Ba'th Party in Lebanon, said today that the al-Ta'if accord does not fulfill Lebanese aspirations but constitutes a basis for the settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

In a statement to AFP, he noted that the al-Ta'if resolutions do not express the ambitions of the nationalists regarding sectarianism. However, he added, they represent an opportunity that can be relied upon.

'Awn 'Obstructs' Security Meeting

NC3110164989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpt] It does not appear that the current contacts taking place at home and abroad have so far managed to soften General 'Awn's position in order to facilitate implementing the agreement reached by the Lebanese deputies. Despite the contacts abroad which are being conducted by the Arab tripartite committee and recently by the security council, which is expected to issue a statement supporting the al-Ta'if agreement, and despite the internal contacts which are being conducted by Arab envoy Ibrahimi, Gen 'Awn has managed to obstruct the security committee's meeting scheduled for today by dallying in declaring his final stand on the security area around Mansur Palace. He tried to circumvent the security council's action by lodging a complaint against the occupation.

'Awn tried to market this complaint through Ambassador Faruq Abu-al-Lam', who called the ambassadors of the major powers and briefed them on its contents.

The postponement of the security committee's meeting coincided with a statement made by a source close to

Gen Michel 'Awn. The source said that there will be no presidential elections and ruled out that they would be held on schedule before 7 November. The source said that Gen 'Awn could resort to many options before resorting to dissolving the Chamber of Deputies. [passage omitted]

'Awn Calls Accord 'Void'

NC0111084289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Visitors to B'abda Palace have mentioned that General 'Awn regards the al-Ta'if agreement as null and void and feels that the presidential elections will not be held. Citing the visitors, the Central News Agency reported that 'Awn has told Arab Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi that the Arab tripartite committee has not achieved the desired goal; namely, ensuring a Syrian withdrawal. 'Awn added that it is necessary that the committee rectify the error it is pursuing.

The agency added that Lebanon will experience a most difficult political phase during the next 3 months and that there is a tendency to convene an international conference to discuss the Lebanese issue.

The agency revealed that 'Awn has sent envoys to Washington, Paris, London, and some Arab capitals to follow up the discussion on the al-Ta'if agreement and the required guarantees for Syrian withdrawal. The agency expected 'Awn to sign the decree for dissolving the Chamber of Deputies this coming Thursday or Friday.

Kuwaiti Muslims' Statement on Mecca Executions

NC2810113689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Marking the 40th day since 16 Kuwaiti Muslims were executed in Mecca at the hands of the Al Sa'ud rulers, Kuwaiti Muslims have issued a statement condemning the Al Sa'ud regime and calling on the 'ulema to respond to these crimes.

The statement, signed by the supporters of freedom and independence, extended condolences to the Islamic nation. It called for working according to Sharia duty against the Wahabi Al Sa'ud gang, because this gang committed flagrant aggression against the sanctities of Muslims and Islam and because remaining silent is not permissible under Sharia law.

Kuwaiti 'Ulema in Beirut for News Conference

NC2810164089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] A Kuwaiti 'ulema delegation has arrived in Beirut to hold a news conference at the Bristol Hotel on Monday, the 40th day since the execution of the 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims by the Saudi authorities. The delegation will also talk about the Kuwaiti authorities' arrest of Shaykh Muhammad Zafir al-Mahdi, a senior Kuwaiti 'ulema, who had denounced the execution of the pilgrims in a Friday sermon before his arrest.

'Government' Complains to UN Security Council

NC3110113489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The Lebanese Government has submitted a complaint to the UN Security Council about the Syrian and Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory. It has sent a letter to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar asking him to distribute the letter to the Security Council members as an official document. In the letter, Lebanon says that it reserves the right to request a meeting of the Security Council at any time to discuss this subject.

More on Complaint

NC3110193489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] On behalf of Dr Salim al-Huss, Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah [acting Foreign Ministry secretary general] has cabled the Lebanese permanent delegation to the United Nations and asked it not to submit and to ignore the Lebanese Government's complaint about the Syrian occupation. He asked the Lebanese delegation to follow up on the complaint against the Israeli occupation.

On instructions from Dr al-Huss, Ambassador Sutaytiyah has called for the ambassadors of the UN Security Council permanent member countries to meet with him on Thursday for a briefing on this matter.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Comments

PM3010141689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Oct 89 p 5

[Unattributed report on Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni 24 October press conference in Jeddah]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Journalist] What are the chances of success for the Lebanese agreement in al-Ta'if in view of the positions of the opposition in Beirut?

[Al-Husayni] Undoubtedly we are working to satisfy our conscience and to satisfy our people, and obviously such an accord, which is designed to unite and close ranks, cannot meet every group's demands, and this is natural. Though some may feel that not all their demands have been met, I believe Lebanon is the major winner. So the duty of deputies and of the Lebanese people is to translate the national accord document into actions and practices that will salvage our country and extricate it from its predicament. [passage omitted]

[Journalist] What is the implementation mechanism and what measures will be taken to guarantee that the Chamber of Deputies session to elect the chamber speaker and the president of the Republic is held in Beirut within security and peace?

[Al-Husayni] Undoubtedly the higher Arab committee, the clear Arab support for its work, and international support for it and for its principal objective—that is, to rescue Lebanon and end the Lebanese crisis—all this constitutes a guarantee. And here it must be pointed out that the higher Arab committee's mission and objective is to extricate Lebanon from its present constitutional dilemma represented by the failure to elect a president and the absence of a collective Lebanese agreement on the solution strategy, whose piliars I have stressed repeatedly and repeat again now: The first pillar is implementation of the international resolutionn on Southern Lebanon, especially Resolution 425 and subsequent resolutions stipulating Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory to within international borders.

The second pillar is the achievement of inter-Lebanese national accord on the basis of constitutional political reforms to achieve a capable and just state and justice and equality among its citizens.

The third pillar is the establishment of Lebanese-Syrian relations on firm and permanent foundations so as to enable Lebanon to benefit from sister Syria's energies and capabilities and thus extricate itself from its predicament.

This is the strategy for a solution to the Lebanese crisis. The Casablanca summit adopted this strategy, but we cannot adopt the solution strategy before we resolve our constitutional dilemma and close Lebanese ranks, or before these ranks clearly express their support for a strong state and a capable government. We are reminded of this by several states when they stress the need to establish a strong central government and dispatch the Lebanese Army to the South with a view to implementing international resolutions.

So the strategic part of the solution to the crisis includes the path that the higher Arab committee will follow and which was also expressed by the Casablanca summit. The second part, concerning a solution to the constitutional dilemma, includes the mechanism for resolving it and that which at one point we called coincidence or congruence on basic principles for constitutional reforms to be politically endorsed by the Chamber of Deputies, first, after which the national accord president would be elected and thus the strong, capable government to which we aspire would be formed so that we can adopt the phased strategy.

To return to the point that there could be some obstacles here or there, I say that in view of this accord, through which the Lebanese people's deputies expressed the Lebanese people's will, we will spare no effort until we achieve our objective, especially since the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people support that approach. We will never be prisoners of a particular method. We will take whatever measures will enable us to resolve the constitutional dilemma and to adopt the solution strategy.

[Journalist] How will the Chamber of Deputies act, in view of the opposition in the eastern area of Beirut? The Arab committee has set a date for the election session, namely 7 November. Will the Chamber hold its sessions in Beirut or outside Lebanon?

[Al-Husayni] Of course all this is taken into account, and we have no option but to rescue Lebanon. When we have numerous options we choose the easiest, but we now have only one option—to rescue Lebanon. No matter how rough and difficult that road is, we are determined to pursue it, whatever the cost. [passage omitted]

[Journalist] What truth is there in what has been said about bringing Algerian and Moroccan officers to provide security protection for a particular security location so the elections can be held? Will it be monitored by the internal security forces or by the Lebanese Army?

[Al-Husayni] The higher Arab committee has assigned that task to Lakhdar Ibrahimi, as its representative. He heads the security committee monitoring the cease-fire, the opening of crossing points, and so on. So the higher Arab committee has instructed Lakhdar Ibrahimi to cooperate and coordinate with the Chamber of Deputies chairmanship and the relevant sectors within the security committee and elsewhere with a view to achieving that objective.

This objective could require Algerian, Moroccan, or other elements, but that is up to Ibrahimi, who shoulders the responsibility for achieving it.

[Journalist] Has a location been agreed on for holding the Chamber's session?

[Al-Husayni] Of course the natural place is the Chamber of Deputies' temporary headquarters in the Mansur Palace in Beirut. The main place is the Chamber of Deputies' headquarters in Al-Najmah Square in Beirut, but it is up to Lakhdar Ibrahimi.

In principle, the decision is for the elections to be held in the Mansur Palace in order to ensure easy access for my fellow deputies and to complete the process as soon as possible. But right now I say that we are not confined by a decision on the venue; the main objective lies in our work.

[Journalist] May we know the security tasks which will be assigned to the Syrian forces in Lebanon according to the document?

[Al-Husayni] Of course, the second part of the national accord document—and, as we said, we are now in an atmosphere of peace, not dispute. A great deal can be said about the atmosphere of dispute, but let us now examine the truth about what has been written. By virtue of its historic and geographic position regarding Lebanon, sister Syria's pan-Arab duty—before that of any other Arab state—is to make all its capabilities available for the sake of rescuing Lebanon. Whoever reads what has been written about the accord will find that sister Syria has shouldered many, many burdens, including

supporting Lebanon in finding a way out of the constitutional dilemma by achieving national accord, forming the national accord government, disbanding the militias, collecting arms, and enabling the Lebanese state's legitimate forces to extend their control over Lebanese territory—all these burdens. And you heard the higher Arab tripartite committee's statement and what it said about the agreements between sister Syria and the committee on these matters.

[Journalist] Since agreement has been reached on the document, will there be agreement on the new president's identity?

[Al-Husayni] I emphasize that until now we have avoided talking about or broaching the subject of the process of selecting the new president, though he will be a president of accord. So in the next few days it must be discussed among my fellow deputies in order to choose the president of accord desired. [passage omitted]

[Journalist] Will the new president be from within or from outside the Chamber of Deputies?

[Al-Husayni] I have just said that we have not yet broached this issue. Obviously, being a deputy myself, I am to some extent enthusiastic about my colleague the deputies, but not at the expense of the homeland's interests. If we believe that someone outside the Chamber of Deputies meets the requirements, I am sure that all the deputies will move in that direction, despite their support for other deputies.

[Journalist] Do you believe that the Beirut demonstrations are a response by the Lebanese people who oppose General 'Awn, and what is your response and comment in that regard?

[Al-Husayni] Of course there are principles and rules for the process of investigating matters in depth and for a people's referendum. We now say—and the world has said with us—that the Chamber of Deputies is the legitimate institution representing the Lebanese people. Many people claim—rightly or wrongly—to represent the people, but there is no way of verifying that claim. Who can say: Here is half the world; if anyone does not believe it, let him come and measure? No, it is unrealistic for someone to measure whether half the world is there; nor is true that half the world is there. So we need rules for stable security conditions to accelerate the holding of genuine parliamentary elections in which the people can express their free will without constraint. Then we can ascertain who represents the people and who does not. But when the homeland is at a dangerous crossroads such as we are experiencing today, then it would be like searching for angels. [passage omitted]

Arab Tripartite Committee 'Insists' on Elections

NC2910092689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Sources of the Arab tripartite committee have emphasized that the deputies and the committee insist on holding the elections in Mansur Palace [Chamber of Deputies premises], that the committee's envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi will not indulge in any argument that would cloud his mission, and that he has no connection with the invitation to the Christian deputies to come to the eastern area to discuss the matter with them.

The sources affirmed that the plan which Ibrahimi brought with him to Beirut provides for defining the boundaries of security around Mansur palace and that a joint force of the Army in both parts of Beirut will supervise the maintainance of security along with the internal security forces and the Chamber of Deputies police.

The sources said that two Algerian officers will assume coordination within the framework of the central security committee. Ibrahimi personally will supervise the progress of the election session, and he might ask for additional Arab observers to ensure that there is enough manpower to control the military situation by turning the security committee into an operations room which will undertake to intervene in order to resolve any problem that might arise during the elections.

The sources noted that the date for holding the elections has not yet been fixed and that this matter will be left to the committee's envoy provided that the session is held before the end of the period which the committee had fixed—7 November.

In another development, Ibrahimi resumed contacts with Lebanese officials. He expressed his hope to achieve results that would serve Lebanon and secure its future. He said: Comprehensive consultations are being held with all parties. We shall achieve, God willing, in the end what serves the interests of Lebanon and its people.

Al-Huss Wants Elections on Schedule

NC2910100389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss stressed today that the presidential elections will be held on schedule. He said that the threat to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies is meaningless.

Al-Huss told AFP: We are confident that the presidential elections will take place on schedule and nothing will stop them, God willing. The deputies are determined to continue the historical march they started in al-Ta'if. They will elect a president for the Republic within the fixed period. This falls within the scope of their constitutional duties.

We are confident that no deputy will fail to carry out this duty, particularly because all of them are aware of the dangers to the country and people if this opportunity to end the inveterate crisis is squandered. Any talk about independence, sovereignty, or freedom would be useless then.

The threat to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies is meaningless and it will not affect the peace process at all. Dissolution of the chamber is illegal, and an announcement to do so would be considered null and void. Consequently, it would have no legal, constitutional, or practical effect. The deputies will go ahead and continue the march. By electing a president for the Republic, they would deal a long awaited fatal blow to the state of division, which is threatening the very core of the country's existence.

The person who is threatening to dissolve the chamber of deputies has no legal or legitimate status to make such a decision. Moreover, he realizes that whatever he says to obstruct the presidential elections or contest their results in advance, much more could be said on the impossibility of holding parliamentary elections in the foreseeable future. Therefore, his talk about dissolving the Chamber of Deputies under the present situation could have one meaning only: a desire to suspend the parliamentary life for good and consequently suspend the Constitution and eternalize his presence in the usurped power.

Deputy Iddih Bids for Presidency

NC2910114989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] I will not become a president because America, influenced by Israel, does not want me, Deputy Raymond Iddih, doyen of the nationallist bloc, has said. He renewed his bid for the Presidency.

In a statement to the London-based AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper, he said he does not agree on some of resolutions endorsed by the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, such as the term: formation of a national accord government. He concludes from this term that half of the cabinet ministers must be loyal to Syria. He said: The term, national accord government is not included in our parliamentary dictionary, nor is it contained in our Constitution.

Algerians To Help With Security

NC3010063589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] [Arab League Envoy] Ibrahimi met with his two Algerian aides in the Summerland Hotel yesterday evening to discuss security for the presidential elections.

Ibrahimi paid a brief visit to Damascus yesterday, where he received 20 Algerian officers, who arrived aboard a special plane to participate in the proposed security plan regarding the electoral session. A similar number of Algerian officers are to arrive today to join their colleagues.

Ibrahimi also met in Damascus with Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt in the presence of Rafiq al-Hariri and Marwan Hamadah. Ibrahimi met earlier with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam.

Ibrahimi Chairs Security Meeting

NC3010123989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Arab Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi chaired a meeting of the Security Committee at the race track this morning to discuss security measures around Mansur Palace to ensure the convening of a Chamber of Deputies session to elect a president.

Ibrahimi said that the discussion centered on the question of providing security at the Chamber of Deputies session and that discussion will be continued at later meetings. He added that the discussion also dealt with recent security violations and the need to put an end to them. He noted that it was agreed to form a working team to repair water networks between East and West Beirut.

Asked about the arrival of Algerian officers, he confirmed they will arrive.

Ibrahimi met at 1300 with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri in the presence of Ahmad al-Ba'labakki, Amal's representative on the Security Committee.

Phalangist Leader on Elections

NC3010132389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Phalangist Party deputy leader Munir al-Haj has called on all the Lebanese political and spiritual leaders to close ranks in anticipation of the coming stage of presidential elections. If we are united and in solidarity in the face of the presidential challenge, we could bring about a president who meets the aspirations of the Lebanese, he added.

Al-Haj made this statement during the periodical meeting of the members of the political bureau, the central council, and the consultative body of the Phalangist Party held at noon today. During the meeting, Al-Haj reviewed the positions of the political and spiritual figures on the al-Ta'if meeting, including that of Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr. He noted that this is the first time the Lebanese issue has been backed by guarantees of such magnitude at both the Arab and international levels. However, he added, we must be alert, because sovereignty and independence cannot be granted, but obtained by continued alertness, perseverance, and struggle. [passage omitted]

Al-Haj said if we are united and in solidarity in the face of the presidential elections, we could agree on choosing a president who could meet the aspirations of the Lebanese. He added: As for the talk by some people about the

dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies, it will undermine the pillars of the Republic, and we will not go along with such a thing. [passage omitted]

Former President Proposes Deputies Meet Sfayr

NC2910101689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] After meeting Patriarch Sfayr today, former President Charles Hilu said he supports Sfayr's moves. He hoped that we will not create contradictions by concluding an agreement with others while we lack accord among ourselves.

Hilu set forth a personal proposal, which he said does not aim to hinder his beatitude's efforts. The proposal suggests that the deputies in al-Ta'if, especially the Bkirki committee deputies, should come to the patriarchate seat at an invitation by his beatitude the patriarch. They will be free to go wherever they want to meet with General 'Awn and reach an understranding.

He said: In my opinion, this proposal may lead to what could be termed unity of ranks. He affirmed that he put forth this proposal to Patriarch Sfayr but declined to disclose Sfayr's response because he does not want to embarrass his beatitude, General 'Awn, and the deputies.

Sfayr Warns Against Renewed Fighting

NC2910163689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr has said that it is sad that people hardly hear anything that is not filled with evil, threats, or menace. Statements are made, he said, that show no respect for the law or the Constitution. This state of affairs can only lead to an outbreak of fighting, he warned.

The patriarch said that the resumption of war, with all its attendant evils, will certainly end in the partitioning of the country. He added: We have always opposed such an outcome, for it runs against our counsel and undermines our role.

Shiite Leader Shams-al-Din Arrives in Damascus

NC2810091589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the higher Islamic Shiite Council, arrived in Damascus this morning for talks with Syrian officials on the Lebanese situation.

Speaker Al-Husayni Returns to Beirut

NC3110160189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Speaker Husayn al-Husayni returned to Beirut this afternoon from Damascus, where he had a stopover for several hours enroute from Rabat.

He met in the Syrian capital with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Al-Husayni told reporters in Damascus that when he arrives in Beirut, he will meet with Arab League envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi to decide upon a date and venue for the Chamber of Deputies session.

ICRC Urges Release of Swiss Officials

NC3110072089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has urged the kidnappers of its two Swiss officials, Emmanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez, to release them without conditions or demands. The ICRC emphasized it will not pay any ransom or meet any demands for the release of its officials. The ICRC affirmed it will continue to render its services in Lebanon because the Lebanese people need such services.

PLO Leaders, Libyan Envoy Discuss Camp Security

NC2810125889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] PLO leaders in Lebanon have disclosed that they received at their headquarters in 'Ayn al-Hulwah yesterday Libyan Ambassador 'Ashur al-Furtas and a delegation from the Algerian Embassy in Lebanon.

They said that the diplomats stressed at their meeting the need to consolidate security and to put an end to the acts of kidnapping and murder in the camp.

Airport Authorities Seize 1,300 Grams of Heroin

NC3010094489 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 28 Oct 89 p 4

[Text] Beirut international airport's security authorities yesterday foiled a drug-smuggling attempt by a woman.

The security authorities arrested Evette Najjar, born in Beirut in 1945, when they seized 1,300 grams of heroin in her possession, hidden in a case with a false bottom.

Najjar told AL-SAFIR: I was travelling to Spain, carrying 1,300 grams of heroin, which a person named 'Abd-al-Hasan put in my case with my knowledge. This is not the first time I have smuggled drugs and I did this three times before without being arrested.

She added: I have made a great mistake. The war has brought us to this situation.

She denied she had received any payment for this job, saying she was to receive $3,000 if she succeeded in this operation. She begged not to have her picture published in the Eastern area's media.

She was handed over with the drugs to the narcotics bureau for investigation.

Her niece, who was at the airport's outer terminal wearing Muslim dress to see her off, was also arrested as a precautionary measure.

Customs sources told AL-SAFIR the seized amount is estimated to be worth $15,000 on the local market.

PFLP Claims Operation Against Israeli Boat

NC3110143289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], which claimed responsibility for a commando operation against an Israeli vessel at dawn today, has issued two statements.

The first said: Our naval forces from the special Martyr Wadi' Haddad group destroyed and sank a Zionist gunboat and all its crew in the Ra's al-Naqurah area at dawn today when it attempted to intercept one of our vessels that was on a special mission. Consequently, the enemy sent several of its boats and helicopters to the scene and illuminated the area to search for the remains of its sailors.

The second statement said: In honor of the children of the stones, the intifadah of glory, and all martyrs of the battle for freedom and independence, and in commemoration of national independence day and the proclamation of the Palestinian state, one of the front's groups from the naval forces of the Martyr Wadi' Haddad unit stormed and destroyed a Zionist enemy gunboat in Ra's al-Naqurah at dawn today. All the boat's occupants were killed after the resistance fighter, the commander of the boat, blew up himself and the boat. The statement disclosed that the Zionist vessel had 10 to 12 Israeli sailors aboard.

We point out that an Israeli military spokesman has acknowledged the operation and claimed that only three sailors were wounded.

According to exclusive information, the fighter who carried out the operation was martyr Lieutenant Mahmud Ahmad Muhammad al-Azwar, 24, alias Kifah Ahmad Salim, who was born in Aleppo; he was a 3d-year law student in the University of Aleppo.

The information adds that the operation took place in an area adjacent to the contact line between al-Naqurah and Nahariyya, where fishing is usually allowed only for collaborators with the occupation forces. The information asserts that the resisting martyr's boat broke through the Israeli vessels and that the martyr detonated ½ ton of explosives among them.

Further on PFLP Operation

JN3110185289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] today claimed responsibility for the suicide operation against an Israeli boat. A PFLP statement said an Israeli boat last night intercepted one of its fighters who was sailing in a small boat on a special mission. The Palestinian fighter hurled hand grenades at the Israeli boat before he was killed. The statement said 12 Israeli soldiers were aboard the Israeli boat.

The Israeli version of the incident as reported by the Israeli Army spokesman said an anti-Israel fighter was killed off the coast of al-Rashidiyah in southern Lebanon as a result of an explosion aboard his fishing boat. The Israeli spokesman added that three Israeli sailors aboard a nearby boat were slightly wounded in the explosion.

Security sources in southern Lebanon emphasized that a strong explosion occurred in the Lebanese territorial waters north of al-Naqurah last night and that the Israeli helicopters fired flares in the area.

South Army, Palestinians Clash in South

NC0111110489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Violent clashes have been raging between the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and Palestinian and fundamentalist groups on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir front in the south since 1115 today. The fighting began after Palestinian gunmen opened fire on SLA positions in Kafr Falus, gravely wounding SLA soldier Bishara Jiries Hanna. The two sides exchanged artillery fire with 130-mm and 155-mm guns. The shelling extended as far as Majdalyun. An SLA source said that his command had been taking pains to cool down the Kafr Falus front in order to achieve stability all over Lebanon but the Palestinians prevented this.

Arab League's Chedli Klibi Concludes Visit

Received by Khaddam

JN3110145289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam at 1000 this morning received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. They reviewed the Arab situation and current developments in the Arab-Israeli struggle arena. They also reviewed the situation in Lebanon.

Departs Damascus 31 Oct

JN3110165689 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, 31 Oct (SANA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Damascus at noon today after a 2-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Talas, Generals Attend Army-Air Force Exercise

JN3110151489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Upon instructions from President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, our armored combat formations have conducted a tactical exercise with the participation of the Air Force, Air Defense, and Air Landing Forces. The practical stages of this exercise were attended by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces; Brigadier General Tariq al-Khadra', chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army; and a number of ranking officers of the General Command and the formations. [passage omitted]

At the end of the exercise, General Mustafa Talas praised the administrators and those who executed the exercise. He thanked them for their organizational and implementational efforts. He also praised the fighters, whether commissioned or non-commissioned officers or soldiers, for their good performance in the use of ground maneuvers and weapons and the high morale they displayed.

The general affirmed that training, the correct use of weapons and equipment, and faith in the inevitability of victory under the leadership of the struggler leader President Hafiz al-Asad, are basic and important factors in our battle with the Zionist enemy, especially at this important stage of our history where our masses are waging battles of steadfastness and confrontation against an enemy that has been described as belligerent, aggressive, and with Nazi characteristics.

The general asked the fighters to exert efforts and increase training along the road to realizing strategic balance with the Zionist enemy and to preserve their fighting preparedness. He said their slogan should always be martyrdom or victory so that the goals of unity, liberty, and socialism for our steadfast people are realized.

NPF Command Assesses Developments in Lebanon

JN0111084889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The central command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] held a meeting at 1800 today under the chairmanship of Comrade Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and NPF deputy head. In this meeting, the NPF central command reviewed the latest political developments and took note of the positive results of the Lebanese deputies' meeting in al-Ta'if. The central command assessed these results as being a major step on the road to asserting Lebanon's unity of both land and people.

The central command also viewed the latest developments as a step toward attaining national accord in Lebanon, which struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad has been calling for and patronizing since the outbreak of the tragic civil war. National accord has become a topic of major concern in the deputies' discussions about the introduction of the required reforms to the Lebanese political system. These reforms have to be introduced in a manner that realizes justice and equality for all Lebanese, affirms Lebanon's Arabism and its Arab affiliation, and contributes to the cancellation of political sectarianism and the reaffirmation of the fraternal relations linking Syria and Lebanon. These relations have been forged by history and geography and consolidated by the ties of kinship between the citizens of the two countries.

The NPF central command highly valued the efforts Syria has made under the leadership of struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad to achieve these results. These efforts express Syria's firm and solid concern for fraternal Lebanon, its territorial integrity, and the Arabism of its people. The NPF central command also highly valued the great sacrifices Syria and its brave Armed Forces have offered to defend Lebanon and protect it against the dangers of Israeli occupation and the civil war. The central command noted that these sacrifices are a sincere expression of Syria's pan-Arab and brotherly commitment and of its comprehensive concept of pan-Arab security.

The NPF central command also praised the courageous intifadah in the occupied Arab territories which is on the threshold of its third year. It noted that the ability of this intifadah to stand fast in the face of the bestial, repressive practices that the Zionist occupation authorities carry out against our kinfolk and people embodies the values of steadfastness and martyrdom—values which have become an integral part of our pan-Arab and national struggle.

The NPF central command emphasized the need to offer all forms of material and moral assistance and support to

this heroic intifadah to enable it to attain its objectives and prevent it from being contained and aborted.

The NPF central command also reviewed the economic state of affairs in the country. The central command noted that there are positive signs that show improvement in this state of affairs, and this improvement has been reflected in the livelihood of the citizens. This will also activate the economic machine in Syria in the fields of industry, agriculture, trade, and oil, and will make it produce more. This increase in production will further enhance the standard of living of the citizen and the country, and it will enable our country to overcome some difficulties that have been imposed on Syria in this field so that Syria may fully assume its responsibilities on the national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian level.

Commentary Declares Michel 'Awn's Days 'Numbered'

JN2610155789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The al-Ta'if meeting has reflected a Lebanese consensus to press ahead with national reconciliation and drive 'Awn from power because he is an impediment to the sisterly country's ability to regain her strength and role in the Arab family. The international community has come out strongly in support of a solution to the Lebanese problem, and the country's leaders across the political spectrum have declared their adherence to Lebanon's unity and, directly or indirectly, condemned 'Awn's provocations and his threats against the parliamentarians.

In an attempt to weather the storm that threatens to topple him from usurped power, 'Awn has orchestrated rallies of support. To that end, he mobilized hundreds of mercenaries and others who shouted slogans hostile to the Arabs and Lebanese parliamentarians and their achievement at al-Ta'if. The staged marches were unusually [illegible] scene, as 'Awn made off-the-cuff speeches about his so-called war of liberation, presuming to claim that he speaks for Lebanon and the Lebanese, when in reality he is a pariah on the Arab and international scene.

'Awn has caused the Lebanese people untold suffering and destruction and has caused the loss of innocent lives. He has caused greater losses and suffering than the 14 years of civil strife. 'Awn has left Beirut in ruins. Not one home, school, hospital, or economic establishment has been spared his shells. Having perpetrated all these crimes, he has the gall to contend that he is entitled to speak for all the Lebanese. In point of fact, having a few hundred people march in front of the Ba'abda Palace only testifies to 'Awn's bankruptcy. If the general would care to put his popularity to the test, we suggest that he venture out of his hideout and make the rounds of East and West Beirut and elsewhere.

It is now quite obvious that 'Awn's days are numbered. He is now a complete outcast in the Lebanese arena. The mere convening of the Lebanese house of parliament to vote a president into office will simply mean putting an end to the general's role and ridding Lebanon and the Lebanese of a black, ferocious, and destructive chapter in their history. Lebanese leaders of East Beirut, both political and spiritual, have made a point of denouncing 'Awn's practices and stressing their commitment to the al-Ta'if achievement.

On the Arab front, 'Awn has abused Arabs and Arabism. Aside from the hireling Iraqi regime, not one Arab will place his bet on this small tyrant. The al-Ta'if meeting has been applauded internationally, with countries around the world urging the Lebanese deputies to carry on with their march of reconciliation and wrap up their major achievement. They further called on the Lebanese to rally behind their dedicated leadership and rebuild their country free from war, sedition, and infighting.

The Lebanese know full well that throughout the past 14 years, Syria has played a key role in the transformation under way in the sisterly country. Syria has strived toward ending the civil war and forging common ground toward a sure-footed national reconciliation. Syria has received too many blows from those who stand to lose from reconcilation, and it has made many sacrifices in the interest of stability, security, and peace in Lebanon. Assisted by other Arabs, Syria's ceaseless efforts in that direction have culminated in success.

The onus is now on the Lebanese parliament to pursue its mission and choose a president and prime minister so that the march of reconciliation can continue and enable Lebanon to rid itself of the plotting clique that has formed a common cause with the Zionist enemy. Hand in hand with Israel and the fascist Iraqi regime, this clique will go to any lengths to thwart the vote. With all Lebanese rallied behind the reconciliation effort, Lebanon will eventually triumph. For its part, Syria will spare no effort to help that drive along. The Arabs and the world at large are also behind the will of the Lebanese. Given such an impressive show of solidarity, plotters, in the final analysis, will have no choice but to bow out.

Commentary on 'Awn's Stand on Al-Ta'if Accord

JN3110173189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] While efforts are being intensified to make the necessary security and political arrangements for the convocation of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies to elect a new president of the Lebanese Republic, and to form a national government to implement the al-Ta'if agreement, it seems that General 'Awn stands alone, defeated and frustrated, observing the collpase of his slogans and dreams. With every Lebanese step toward peace and reconciliation, the general feels the collapse of his tyrannical illusions, one after another.

With events unfolding in Lebanon, the al-Yarzah general is shrinking back to what he really is: A man obsessed with power who managed, in shadowy circumstances, to reach the presidential palace. From there, he waged the ugliest destructive war against every Lebanese, practiced genocide, displaced people, and destroyed whatever remained in Lebanon after the years of painful ordeal that afflicted the sisterly country as a result of a despicable Zionist plot. The aim of this plot was to partition this Arab country and stab the Arab nation in the heart. The Lebanese are now unanimous that the only remaining obstacle to the solution is the presence of 'Awn and his clique.

With the growing support for implementing the al-Ta'if agreement and for dialogue and cooperation, 'Awn has begun to feel the earth shake under his feet. This has prompted him to make contradictory statements. He has threatened the deputies, accused them of treason, and called on them to return from al-Ta'if. He rejected the presidential elections and then set the condition that the elections should be held in a specific place. In addition, he attacked the spiritual leaders and parties in the eastern area. He organized demonstrations, using some misguided people to frighten other parties in the eastern area where voices have rejected his suicidal plan—a plan which would lead Lebanon and the Lebanese to destruction and into the unknown.

Now that the relations between 'Awn and the Israeli enemy have been exposed, the Lebanese, irrespective of their social and political affiliations, realize that 'Awn does not represent their hopes and aspirations, but that he is a mere tool of foreign and Zionist desires that are hostile to these hopes and aspirations. According to party sources in Beirut, the Israel enemy sends Mosad officers with instructions to 'Awn to continue obstructing the efforts to save Lebanon and to take every negative step to impede the election of a new president of Lebanon. The al-Yarzah general did the same thing on 23 September 1988.

It has become clear to all the Lebanese forces believing in Lebanon's unity and Arabism, especially in the eastern area, that the destructive war launched by 'Awn under the banner of liberation was only a campaign in the war of partition started by Israel in 1975 against Lebanon and its people. 'Awn is working to complete this war and to implement the Israeli scheme—a scheme that Israel is now seeking to implement through the al-Yarzah general, with cover provided by the rancorous regime in Baghdad, which stood alongside the agents of Israel in an exposed battle against the forces believing in Lebanon's Arabism and struggling to liberate it from the hateful Israeli occupation.

Naturally, 'Awn's political positions and ideas contradict those of the overwhelming majority of Lebanese and those of the rational unity-seeking forces in the eastern area that have responded to the aspirations of the citizens. What 'Awn is doing is an Israeli attempt to abort the al-Ta'if agreement and push Lebanon into bloodshed and destruction. Surely, this contradicts Lebanon's national and pan-Arab interests and the Arab nation's interests. Thus, it is essential now in Lebanon to unify positions and decisions by all those who believe dialogue and accord are the means to achieve democracy, justice, and equality for all Lebanese. Those injured by a Lebanese accord, especially the Israeli enemy and the murderous regime in Baghdad, are determined to exploit 'Awn's power-mania to the end. They view the al-Ta'if agreement, which has won a degree of Lebanese unanimity unique in the history of the Lebanese crisis, as a sweeping threat to their conspiracies to partition Lebanon and turn it into a region of conflicting sectarian protectorates. They view the agreement as a threat to their plans to use Lebanon as a springboard for attacks against other Arab countries and their steadfast forces, to liquidate the Palestine question, and to subjugate the Arab nation to Zionist hegemony.

What the Lebanese people want and hope for is, and has been, one of Arab Syria's foremost pan-Arab objectives. Syria's intervention in Lebanon is a leading initiative to abort attempts to fragment it, to defend its unity, sovereignty, and independence, and to help its citizens. Syria has offered aid and blood to liberate this sisterly country from Israeli occupation and its malignant tumors, which have spread to some parts of the Lebanese body. Syria has never been dragged into opposing a particular Lebanese sect. On the contrary, it exercised patience, endured pains, and ignored the lies of agents and hirelings because it believes that the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people want salvation, believe in their genuine Arab affiliation, and view Syria and its heroic army as a hand of salvation extended to save all Lebanese from the Zionist plot. Hence, Lebanese unanimity in favor of salvation, implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement, and the election of a new president of the republic, will receive every support and assistance from Syria.

The brotherly Lebanese people will find that Syria keeps its promises. Syria maintains Lebanese blood, safeguards Lebanon's unity and sovereignty, and cooperates with all forces that are faithful to the hopes and aspirations of the entire Lebanese people, despite their location or affiliation. Syria's only criterion for dealing with Lebanese sects is that they remain loyal to Lebanon and its national and pan-Arab interests.

Paper Calls 'Awn 'Anomalous,' 'Sick' Phenomenon

JN0111081689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN says: Everyone inside and outside Lebanon has become fully convinced that 'Awn represents an anomalous and sick phenomenon which is the only obstacle to national accord and that he is seeking the Zionist enemy's support. It is natural that a solution will take place only through removing that anomaly and

eradicating the obstacle that stands in the face of Lebanese, Arab, and international unanimity. This unanimity upholds the need for Lebanon to restore its unity within the framework of its clear-cut Arab affiliation and on the basis of political reform, which will achieve equality in rights and duties, as well as justice and equal opportunities, for all Lebanese citizens.

This is exactly what the patriotic Lebanese will try to achieve in the near future, with the help of the good forces so that the banner of a free, Arab, and unified Lebanon can rise.

Paper Cited on Iraqi Human Rights Violations

JN3110093289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 31 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Iraqi People Will Win," the newspaper TISHRIN says: What is currently taking place in Iraq indicates the acceleration of the crisis which encompasses the Iraqi regime from all directions and manifests itself in various ways and forms. Political and press circles indicate that the terrorist Saddam lives in true isolation, despite the trappings of grandeur which he displays and surrounds himself with as though he were one of the emperors of the past.

The paper adds: The series of crazy killings, terrorism, and the daily oppression and arrests confirm the bankruptcy of the regime, especially on the domestic level. Besides, the real manifestations of suffering have become the dominant feature of the majority of the Iraqi people.

The paper points out that human rights organizations have classified the Iraqi regime as one of the bloodiest, most terroristic, and most murderous regimes. In their daily reports these organizations have published astonishing details on the numbers of victims, missing people, and detainees in prisons. This is in addition to wiping out the peoples of entire cities and villages.

The paper goes on to say: All this confirms what close sources to Saddam are saying that the Iraqi executioner suffers from a paranoia which makes him suspect people closest to him.

TISHRIN concludes: Saddam has become aware that the people are bound to avenge their dignity and that his crimes will wreak severe punishment upon himself and all those responsible for the destruction and devastation of Iraq.

Afghanistan

Convoy Reaches Kabul; Salang Highway Clear

BK3110164089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1625 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct 31 (AFP)—A food convoy of some 100 trucks rolled into Kabul Tuesday, as the government said the vital Salang Highway linking the capital with the Soviet border was back in government hands after a week-long mujahidin blockade.

The trucks, carrying food, clothes and medicines, drove into the capital early Tuesday afternoon along the Salang from Bagram District in neighbouring Parvan Province, about eight hours drive from Kabul, witnesses said.

It would be followed by the 150-truck tail of the convoy which was already on the road after being stalled for more than a week by mujahidin resistance fighters, a government spokesman said.

The spokesman also said the Salang Pass, the vital central section of the road that cuts through the snow-capped Hindu Kush Mountains, had been cleared of mujahidin and that a stalled United Nations convoy should be able to start for the pass.

The U.N. convoy carrying 700,000 U.S. dollars worth of relief goods has been stalled in the city of Mazar-e Sharif, north of the pass.

"There is no threat now, extensive military measures have been adopted to secure the road and the pass," government spokesman Mohamad Nabi Amani told journalists here.

Monday the government said their troops had fired Soviet-made Scud missiles at the occupying mujahidin on the Salang, killing as many as 200.

The arrival of the convoy, which witnesses said included truckloads of vegetables, rice and fruit, came as the roughly 1.5 million residents of Kabul were already feeling the pinch of early winter food shortages, currently relieved only by a daily Soviet airlift.

The government has identified the mujahidin leaders besieging the road as Ahmad Shah Masud, who operates in the Hindu Kush area, and fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar on the plains north of Kabul. The two are rivals and for the past three months have been involved in a bitter feud.

Pakistan Charge Summoned Over Missile Attacks

LD3110224189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry Information Department reported that the charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry this afternoon, 31 October 1989. The following points were conveyed to him by the official in charge of the First Political Department:

The Pakistani Government, by choosing state terrorism and trampling underfoot the Geneva accords, continues to supply the armed extremists with lethal weapons. As a result of using these weapons, our innocent compatriots, including women and children, are being killed. According to reports by the country's security forces, 105 missiles have been fired at the city of Kabul by the armed Pakistani-backed extremists from 25 to 30 October of the current year. As a result, 22 people have been killed and 79 have been wounded; 8 private homes, 2 shops, 1 car, and a Hindu place of worship have been destroyed or damaged.

The republican government of Afghanistan condemns these savage actions by the mercenary extremists of Pakistani state terrorism, and expresses its strongest protest to the Pakistan Government. Once again our government refers to the open interference by Pakistan in Afghanistan's internal affairs, and considers the Pakistani authorities to be responsible for the grave consequences.

State Security Ministry Buys 'Stinger' Missiles

LD3110211889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The organs of the Ministry of State Security yesterday purchased two surface-to-air missiles of the U.S. Stinger type and three missiles of the [name indistinct] type from the ringleaders of the opposition forces in Shakardara and Paghman Districts and in Vardak Province.

According to BAKHTAR's military section, the price of these rockets was paid to the opposition side in accordance with Decree 204, dated 10 October 1987.

Weapons Seized; More on Missile Purchase

LD0111093589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 31, BAKHTAR—The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) in their mopping up operations which were carried out today in the Lalandar, Deh Pak, Hatay, Tangay areas, Kabul Province and Mashi Kheyl, Khaneqah, Qala 'Abdul Rahman and Siah Chow areas, Maydan Province discovered and seized 900 ground to ground Sacker-20 rockets, 1000 shells of recoilless guns, 35000 rounds of heavy machine-gun bullets, 2000 mortar shells, 35000 bullets for Kalashnkiov, 600 rocket and mortar war-heads, 10 depots of foodstuffs and a large amount of explosives.

Twenty nine blindages, 6 strongholds and tens of hideouts of the extremists were captured by the Armed Forces as well.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that the said armaments were recently dispatched from Pakistan to further intensify war and bloodshed in the RA.

According to another report the local and foreign journalists visited the area and arms and ammunition captured during the day.

Reports reached here say that organs of the Ministry of State Security bought two American ground-to-air Stinger rockets and 3 Strella ground-to-air rockets from the oppositions in the Shakar Dara and Paghman Districts, Kabul Province and Wardak Province on October 30 1989. The prices of the rockets were paid to their salers on the spot.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported from Nangarhar that during the telling blows of the Armed Forces on the concentration areas of the extremists in that province an extremists ringleader belonging to the Golbuddin [Hekmatyar] band was killed and countless extremists were wiped out from the battle scene in that province on October 24, 1989.

Plane With 'Several Army Commanders' Crashes

BK0111005989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1850 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct 31 (AFP)—At least 12 people were killed when an Afghan military jet with several Army commanders on board crashed on a flight from here to eastern Jalalabad, Defence Ministry sources said here Tuesday.

The Soviet-built plane crashed when the pilot tried to land at Jalalabad airport, the sources said.

They stressed the crash had been an accident and the plane was not shot down, but did not give details.

Several of the passengers on board were senior commanders in charge of the defence of Nangarhar Province where Jalalabad is located.

Pakistan-based mujahidin rebels have been trying to capture Jalalabad, 150 kilometres (94 miles) from Kabul, since late last year and have kept the airport under pressure with heavy rocket and missile fire.

31 Oct Military Situation in Provinces Noted

LD3110095289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0524 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 30, BAKHTAR—Over three hundred and seventy three extremists along with Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis have been killed or wounded in Paktia, Nangarhar and Qandahar Provinces due to the counter attacks of the [word indistinct] carried out in the past four days in those provinces.

Our military correspondent reports that the armed opposition groups supported by Pakistan and the USA fired heavy missiles on security posts and residential areas of Gardeyz city and Khowst Grand District in the past four days as a result of which four personnel of the Armed Forces were wounded and two others killed. Three residential houses were destroyed in Gardeyz city as well.

In response to the extremists attack the Armed Forces based in Paktia Province resorted to counter attacks killing or wounding 178 extremists, Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis.

The report adds that six vehicles loaded with arms and munitions and two arms depots of the enemy were destroyed as a result of the attacks.

Based on another report in the past four days the armed opposition extremists launched rockets on security posts in Samar Kheyl and Behsud areas of Nangarhar Province which resulted in injuring five personnel of the Armed Forces.

Thus the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar resorted to [words indistinct] or wounding 115 persons [words indistinct].

Based on another report, in the same period Armed forces based in Qandahar Province carried out mopping up operation in Molla 'Abdollah, Zaker-e Sharif and Molla Kohi [name as received] area capturing a large amount of arms and munitions of the enemy.

Likewise, the extremists fired heavy missiles against different parts of Qandahar city wounding eight personnel of the Armed Forces and killing three others. The report adds that eighty extremists were killed or wounded as a result of the counter attacks of the government's Armed Forces based in that province.

1 Nov Battle Situation in Provinces Reported

BK0111102989 Kabul in English to South Asia 0906 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] The heroic units of the Afghan Armed Forces serving in Khowst Division have further fortified their trenches and defense lines during last 4 days. Owing to the pressure of the units, the enemy could not resort to any act of combat operations, said a source of the Armed Forces to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY. The source said that the enemy joint forces—armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabi mercenaries—made heavy attacks from long distances on the government security posts in the directions of Yaqubi, Tanay, Jaji, Gorbaz, Jaji Meydan, and some parts of Gardeyz city. As a result, four servicemen of the Afghan forces were injured and two others martyred. Also three residential houses in Gardeyz were destroyed.

The Afghan units opened heavy retaliatory fire on the war positions of the enemy, (?suppressing) some 178 men of the enemy forces and demolishing their 4 reactive units, 3 rocket-launching units, 6 weapon-loaded vehicles, 2 firearms depots, and 1 recoilless cannon.

The source said that the government troops are fulfilling their patriotic tasks with a high morale and combat preparedness.

In Nangarhar, while generally the units of the Armed Forces were equipping their positions, some of them conducted and set up ambushes and mopping-up operations in some parts of Samar Kheyl and Deh Miran regions. Sixty shells of recoilless cannons and several light weapons of the enemy were captured as a result.

In the last 4 days, the enemy heavily shelled the security outposts of the Afghan forces in directions of Samar Kheyl and Behsud, injuring five servicemen of the Armed Forces. The retaliatory artillery and air strikes of the government forces put as many as 115 men of the enemy out of action and destroyed 2 depots of arms and ammunition, 1 unit of [words indistinct], 4 mortars, 4 recoilless cannons, 2 vehicles carrying arms and ammunition, and several BM-12 units.

According to another report, the government units and detachments in Qandahar carried out combing operations in Molla 'Abdollah Zakir-e Sharif, Molla Kohi [placename as received] villages. As a result, 8 reactive shells and 47 shells of recoilless cannons of the foreign-backed enemy were captured.

Meanwhile, there have been heavy shellings of the security posts in some parts of Qandahar city, as result of which eight servicemen of the Afghan forces were injured and three others killed. Some 80 men of the enemy were put out of action after the retaliatory attacks of the government forces. Also destroyed were the enemy's 47 fortified positions, 31 blind ditches, 3 depots of arms, 600 antipersonnel mines, 10 antivehicle mines, and 4 BM-12 units.

Cooperation Meeting With Soviet Delegation Held

LD0111091589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 31, BAKHTAR—Sultan Husayn, minister of planning of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) met in his office today with F.V. Prosov, head of the delegation of the USSR State Committee for Planning in Kabul.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reported that the Soviet delegation, which had arrived in Kabul at the invitation of the Ministry of Planning of the RA, participated in the session of the Afghan-Soviet Sub-commission for Cooperation in Planning Affairs held in that ministry today.

The Afghan delegation was headed by Ahmad Fahim Marufi deputy planning minister and Prosov headed the Soviet delegation in the session.

The Soviet delegation visited Jamshid and Majidi raising processing factories located in the industrial area in the capital during the day.

India

Embassy in Fiji Downgraded; Ambassador To Leave

BK3110162489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Oct 31 (AFP)—The Indian Government Tuesday criticised Fiji's decision to downgrade New Delhi's diplomatic mission in Suva to consular status and give the outgoing Indian ambassador three days to leave the country.

A spokesman for the External Affairs Ministry described the Fijian Government's action as "unnecessary," since India had already decided Saturday to recall Ambassador Thettalil Srinivasan to New Delhi.

"The Fijian authorities' announcement, asking the Indian ambassador to leave Suva by November 3, is ex post facto," the spokesman told reporters.

New Delhi's reaction came after an Information Ministry statement in Suva on Tuesday said India's diplomatic status was being downgraded because of New Delhi's alleged interference in Fiji's domestic affairs.

Gandhi's Office Denies HINDU's Allegations

BK3110155889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1540 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 31 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's office Tuesday [31 October] denied newspaper allegations that he was personally involved in a major arms kickbacks scandal as several opposition leaders called for his resignation.

A spokesman for the prime minister's office here "categorically" denied what he described as insinuations by THE HINDU newspaper which earlier Tuesday carried apparently damning diary entries by Martin Ardbo, former president of the Swedish arms firm Bofors.

The newspaper carried facsimile copies of diary entries purporting to show among other things that a meeting took place between a Bob Wilson and a "Gandhi trustee lawyer" in 1987.

THE HINDU said the meeting was in connection with the kickbacks allegedly paid in the 1.3 billion U.S. dollars howitzer deal clinched with Bofors a year earlier by the Indian Defence Ministry, and that it was evidence of Mr. Gandhi's "direct involvement."

As the denial was issued in a brief written statement here, a five-party opposition national front, and two other opposition parties, the Janata Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), called for the prime minister's resignation in the face of THE HINDU expose. The BJP said he should step down and appoint a care-taker government.

The alleged hand-written diary entry by Mr. Ardbo, who is now on trial in Sweden for illegal arms exports, was

described by THE HINDU as "direct and irrefutable evidence" of Mr. Gandhi's involvement. However the newspaper did not describe the Gandhi trust.

"The prime minister is not associated with or aware of any trust known as the Gandhi trust, nor had he at any time authorised any lawyer or representative to meet on his behalf or on behalf of any trust any representative of any company allegedly concerned with the Bofors issue," the statement said.

The Bofors scandal broke in India in April of 1987 when the company was accused of paying huge bribes to Indian officials to win the howitzer contract.

With persistant media exposure, it quickly became India's biggest corruption scandal and has seriously tarnished the image of the 45-year-old premier who is facing crucial parliamentary elections in November.

Statement Denies Gandhi Involvement

BK0111101189 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0851 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Following statemant has been issued on 31-10-89: "The prime minister's attention has been drawn to reports in certain secions of press today concerning the Bofors controversy. A spokesman for the prime minister categorically denied the insinuation made and stated that the prime minister is not associated with or aware of any trust known as the 'Gandhi trust' nor had he at any time authorised any lawyer or representative to meet on his behalf or on behalf of any trust any representative of any company allegedly concerned with the Bofors issue".

CPI Releases Manifesto for Lok Sabha Elections

BK3110164689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The Communist Party of India, CPI, says it will fight the coming elections to isolate communal and secessionist elements and strengthen the left, democratic, and secular forces. The party manifesto which was released in New Delhi today by the CPI general secretary, Mr Rajeshwara Rao, pledges to defend the country's unity and integrity, maintain communal harmony, support the existing foreign policy, give more power to states, and initiate new economic measures. It alleges that the ruling party is responsible for, what it calls, the present critical situation in the country in different fields.

On the economic front, the party promises radical land reforms, need-based minimum wages, support to small-scale and cottage industries, and guaranteed remunerative prices for farmers. Curbs on monopoly houses and transnationals, state takeover of wholesale trade in food grains, and nationalization of sugar, textiles, jute, and vanaspati [vegetable oil] industries are other salient features of the party's program.

The CPI manifesto pledges to make the right to employment a fundamental right, give housing sites to the urban and rural poor, and protect the environment. The party says it will take steps to eliminate corruption and make disclosure of assets by MP's [members of Parliament], MLA's [members of Legislative Assembly], and ministers compulsory. It promises that the judicial system will be reformed for easy and inexpensive justice, while the parliamentary democratic system will be strengthened.

The manifesto claims that the electronic media will be put under an autonomous corporation.

The party says it will protect the rights of the religious minorities and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and have reservations [of seats] in panchayats [village councils] and local bodies. Women will be given equal wage, status, and opportunities and steps will be taken to put an end to the atrocities against them.

The manifesto also promises a comprehensive policy for the youth and assures old-age pension. It says primary education will be made compulsory and education up to secondary level will be free.

About foreign policy, the CPI wants the present policy of peace, anti-imperialism, and nonalignment to be further strengthened. It seeks improvement in relations with neighbors, friendship with the socialist world, and firm stand against neocolonialism and apartheid.

Pledging its support to the national liberation struggles in various parts of the world, it calls for a restructuring of international economic relations.

On the Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid [a disputed shrine in Uttar Pradesh claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] issue, the CPI criticized the shila pujan [ground-breaking ceremony] and the proposed laying of the foundation of a temple at Ayudhya. It alleges that the government has failed to take serious steps to counter, what it calls, the communal menace.

36 Dead in Train Accident; Minister Visits Site

BK0111132389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] The death toll in the train accident near Mughal Sarai has risen to 36. Seventy-eight persons have been injured, 22 of them seriously. The injured had been admitted to Mughal Sarai Hospital.

As already reported, the engine and 10 bogies of Howrah-bound 8 Down Toofan Express derailed near Sakaldiha station on Mughal Sarai-Dhanapur section.

Relief and rescue operations are in full swing. The railway minister, Mr Madhav Rao Scindia, air dashed to the accident site and supervised the relief work. He visited the Mughal Sarai railway hospital, where the injured have been admitted. Mr Scindia announced an ex gratia amount of 15,000 rupees each to the next of kin of those killed in the train accident. He has also

announced 3,000 to 6,000 rupees each for those seriously injured and 750 rupees each to those who received minor injuries.

A special enquiry counter has been opened in New Delhi railway station to give information about the passengers.

The president, Mr Venkataraman, expressed distress over the tragedy. In a message, he extended his condolence to the bereaved families and wished speedy recovery to those injured.

42 TV Transmitters Commissioned; 52 More Planned

BK3110132189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Fifty-two low-power TV transmitters are to be commissioned during the next 10 days in different parts of the country. In the last 1 week, 42 transmitters were commissioned. These transmitters will extend TV coverage to the remote and inaccessible areas and are part of government's plan to extend the coverage of TV network under various schemes of the seventh plan.

Iran

Yazdi Castigates U.S. Senate for Approving Bill

LD3110161589 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct 31, IRNA—The head of the Judiciary today castigated as 'a terrorist move and a blatant violation of international rules' the recent U.S. Senate approval sanctioning kidnapping and interrogation of any person in any part of the world, considered 'guilty' by American courts.

If a country assumes the role of arresting anyone it considers 'guilty' regardless of nationality, and that too on foreign soil, then all internationally accepted regulations should be thrown away, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said.

Describing the U.S. move as the 'worst kind of terrorism and kidnapping,' the ayatollah held world bodies and forums responsible for 'the state of chaos which is certainly bound to result from the U.S. move.'

'The whole scheme proves Washington's bullying nature, and a violation of other countries' territorial integrity,' he said.

The Judiciary head made it clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns such acts, which in the opinion of independent nations and non-aligned governments are 'open interferences in the internal affairs of sovereign countries.'

Earlier in the day, the Majlis session tabled a double urgency bill calling for stepped up measures to counter Washington's state terrorism.

If approved, the bill can be applied to any country which permits the U.S. to use its soil for kidnapping or threatening the lives of Iranian citizens.

The bill will also empower the president of the Islamic Republic to take necessary measures for the arrest of American citizens found guilty by Iranian courts.

Majlis Speaker Condemns U.S. 'Terrorists'

LD0111113389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Mr Karrubi, speaker of the Majlis, paid tribute to 4 November at the open session of the Majlis, calling it the day of heroism, victimization, martyrdom, and glory of the revolutionary Iranian nation.

Stressing that the path and policy of his eminence the imam [Khomeyni], may his soul be admitted to God's paradise, will be continued by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: Our policy is the same as that which our great imam drew up for the officials in charge of the Islamic Republic. These officials, serving the nation, are all among the most faithful followers of the path of the imam. The forces who were supporting the imam during the days of oppression [under the rule of the shah] will not allow the path of the imam to remain without any follower even for a moment.

Mr Karrubi also added: All the officials and revolutionary organs are moving toward the direction which His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the revolution, has charted, the direction whose framework and principles have been designed by him.

In another part of his remarks the Majlis speaker said that entrusting the right to the U.S. police to arrest nationals of other countries who have been convicted in U.S. courts is an act extending capitulation all over the world. Addressing the ringleaders of the U.S. he said: You who talk of human rights and terrorism are yourselves essentially terrorists and criminals. You take away security from human beings throughout the world.

Majlis Ratifies Bills on U.S. Move, Khomeyni Works

LD0111121589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Excerpt] According to a report by our correspondent, in today's open session of the Majlis a bill of great urgency concerning methods to confront the terrorist acts of the U.S. Government was debated in the presence of members of the Council of Guardians and was subsequently atified. The single clause of the bill stipulates that in order to reciprocate the terrorist acts of the U.S. Government, the president is dutybound to take necessary actions aimed at arresting and punishing Americans and their direct and indirect agents who have been convicted in Iran's judicial forums. Furthermore, all countries who directly or indirectly cooperate with the United States in kidnapping Iranian nationals or in plotting against their

lives and the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be dealt with according to that single clause.

According to this ratified bill, U.S. nationals, their agents, and those countries who assist the United States in kidnapping Iranian nationals or who plot against their lives or against the interests of the Islamic Republic will be prosecuted in courts inside the country in accordance with Islamic laws.

Furthermore, in that session, the debate on a legal bill of singular urgency concerning the preservation of Imam Khomeyni's works and memoirs continued in the presence of members of the Council of Guardians. After the ratification of the remaining clauses, the bill was passed.

According to that bill, the Ministries of Interior and Culture and Islamic Guidance are dutybound to cooperate with the organization in charge of collating and publishing Imam Khomeyni's works, in order to present general plans on naming the country's important streets and squares after Imam Khomeyni, as well as producing paintings and other works of arts portraying Imam Khomeyni's aims and objectives. These works should be installed in squares and public places, subject to government approval. The Central Bank of Iran is dutybound to print the blessed picture of Imam Khomeyni on one side of the money notes of the Islamic Republic and on Spring of Freedom gold coins. All ministries, official organizations, institutions, and centers of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system should install the blessed portrait of Imam Khomeyni in a suitable place. [passage omitted]

Mohtashemi To Speak at 'Den of Spies' 4 Nov

LD0111122389 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 1, IRNA—Some 160 U.S. flags will be set on fire by the demonstrators of 'anti-global arrogance' next Saturday on the 10th anniversary of the seizure of the former U.S. Embassy here, it was announced here today.

The move is in protest of the U.S.-engineered plot, carried out by the Saudi regime—beheading 16 innocent Muslims accused of bomb explosions in the holy Mecca during last summer hajj rituals, said a statement by the Union of Islamic Associations of University Students.

The announcement said the measure would further display hatred of the Iranian Muslim nation against U.S. mischiefs in the world and in the region.

It added that the protest march will start from Tehran University's mosque and end in front of the U.S. den of spies (former U.S. Embassy).

Former Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi is to deliver a speech and a resolution issued will be read by one of the students at the end of the ceremony, the announcement added.

It also lauded the recent decision by the Majlis deputies in approving a draft bill to confront a recent U.S. law in support of state terrorism.

Velayati Supports Syrian Presence in Lebanon

LD3110174789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Syrian Labor Minister Haydar Buzu met our country's Foreign Minister Velayati today. The latest regional developments, particularly those in Lebanon and Palestine, were reviewed and discussed at the meeting. In addition, Mr Velayati stressed: We support the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, considering it a form of protection for the Lebanese people.

Indifference Toward Hostages in Lebanon Deplored

LD3110184689 Tehran IRNA in English 1827 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Oct 31, IRNA—Father of Kazem Akhavan, reporter of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA) who was kidnapped by the Christian Phalangists in Lebanon several years ago, criticized international societies and the self-styled defenders of human rights, for their indifference about Iranian hostages in Lebanon.

He deplored that these societies have not yet done anything to secure the release of his son from the hands of his captors and added the very same people who are indifferent about the freedom of Iranian hostages in Lebanon always demand the release of the missing Westerners 'who had no business in Lebanon other than espionage.'

Kazem's father said he expects international societies and those who cry for human rights to strive to secure the freedom of his son and others who were kidnapped with him.

He called on the Islamic Republic authorities to exert pressure on international circles and the responsible people in this regard.

Kazem Akhavan joined IRNA in 1981 and was despatched to Lebanon as a photo-journalist following the Zionist attack on Lebanon. He was kidnapped together with three other Iranians by Phalangists on his way to Beirut. There is yet no news on what has befallen him or the people who were kidnapped with him.

Unity Against 'Zionist' Plan for Mosque Needed

NC3110130789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Fitting Response to Zionist Plot a Must"]

[Text] Zionist plots against Islam are no new phenomena. From the very earliest days of Islam, beginning with the Holy Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him

and his scion) time, Zionist plots have appeared taking one shape or another, in one name or another but always as a common dark threat running through history.

The recent plot of the Zionists to destroy the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest shrine of Islam, is the reappearance again of what has lain hidden all the time, not eradicated. The very idea of creating a Zionist regime was the brain-child of the West, especially of the British, to contain and if possible destroy Islam.

Israel as conceived and created by the West has continued its ancient Zionist antagonism to Islam. Millions of Palestinians have been turned into refugees as a result of the creation of this entity and these dispossessed people live in extreme conditions of economic hardship and physical and spiritual destitution.

Yet what are these big countries which claim to champion human rights and a better world for man doing about this grave injustice? They piously play lip-service to the Palestinian cause but their interests are now more centered on gaining what they believe are moral victories in Eastern Europe and don't mind the expenditure of vast sums of money to do this. And the Palestinians go on, with no help going their way—a question of blood being thicker than water.

These big powers work on double-standards, turning a blind-eye to Zionist atrocities and even kidnappings of religious personages in Lebanon, while condemning terrorism and inhumane acts in other countries.

From the time of the culmination of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the leader of this nation, and those who now continue, have consistently hit out at these Zionist plots even while other so-called Islamic countries in the region have done little, and worse even indirectly abetted the cause of Zionism.

The recent plot to destroy the sancity of Al-Aqsa is a serious issue indeed and all world Muslims should rally against this move. It is strange indeed that the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has kept aloof from such a vital issue as this. It is not too late yet for themembers of this organization to collectively condemn and take urgent action in the present case and in the future too, so that it will dissuade the Zionists from all such plots in future.

No Muslim in the world can have two opinions on this vital issue of Zionism versus Islam and all Muslim organizations must get together to crush such Zionist plots as a religiously bounden duty.

The Muslims of the world should stay alert and unite in the face of these heinous plots against Islam. They have already shown their strength and unity in their stands against the blasphemous book against Islam—'The Satanic Verses'—when they rallied to the call of the late leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni as he issued a decree against the notorious writer of the book. All Muslims of the world backed the Imam's fatwa [religious decree].

The same version, the same unity and the same might needs to be shown now by all world Muslims in the face of Zionist plots.

Soviet Trade Minister Arrives in Tehran 1 Nov

NC0111072889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Mr Katushev, Soviet minister for foreign economic relations, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of an economic delegation and was welcomed by Mr Nurbakhsh, our minister of finance and economy.

After his arrival in Tehran, Mr Katushev expressed hope that the two countries' relations will further expand and said that his country is ready to have full cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the economic fields.

During this visit, Mr Katushev will meet and talk with our country's high-ranking political and economic officials.

TEHRAN TIMES Article on Afghanistan Issue

NC3110184989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Oct 89 pp 5, 14

[Nasim Zehra article: "An U.N. Initiative To Solve the Afghan Issue—Can It Work?"]

[Excerpts] A renewed diplomatic initiative to solve the Afghan problem is now underway. It has been initiated by the UN Secretary General. The responsibility for its success and failure lies with the major players involved in the Afghan war. [passage omitted]

The U.N secretary general has now floated the idea of a "minimum structured forum" among the major players involved in the Afghan war. Their reactions are still awaited. The idea of "minimum structured forum" will be the first part of a two-step plan the secretary general intends to evolve. This plan will initiate the intra-Afghan dialogue for which he has been given mandate by the world community implicit in November 3rd General Assembly's resolution. [passage omitted]

In its present conceptual form the structural forum proposal appears to be feasible. It will tackle the biggest problem of active disagreement and in fact bitter animosity among various anti-Najib factions including the members of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG).

The success of this proposal is directly contingent upon two factors: 1) the initial agreement of all involved parties that the secretary general can proceed to implement his proposal and 2) the active support of all parties to make his efforts successful.

It is unlikely that any party to the conflict would veto the secretary general's proposal. It is in line with Moscow

and Kabul's position that an intra-Afghan dialogue is a pre-requisite for a political settlement of the Afghan issue. Tehran, with some reservations, will also support the UN secretary general's proposal. While Islamabad may have political reservations with the proposal itself, they are also likely to support it for different reasons. In supporting the diplomatic initiative Washington and Islamabad will appear less interfering in Afghan internal affairs. They will be perceived as supporters of a diplomatic and political solution as opposed to a military solution.

Such an intiative which ensures emergence of hitherto unacknowledged Afghan factions in the power struggle as independent players would be feared by the AIG. Washington and Islamabad may hope that the fear of these new factions which may undermine the political power of a divided AIG may force AIG members to unite.

AIG's positive response to the UN secretary general's proposal may not be voluntarily forthcoming. AIG may view it as threatening to its own existence. Despite serious infighting among AIG members it still considers itself as the only legitimate political counterpoint to the Kabul regime. Washington and Islamabad have largely subscribed to this view.

Gaining tacit approval of the major parties for this UN proposal must be followed by their active support. Active support implies that supporter of Kabul and anti-Najib forces convince the latter to talk among themselves.

In the case of anti-Najib forces before they can enter into any form of indirect negotiations with the Kabul regime they must be first willing to communicate amongst themselves.

Moscow will actively support the secretary general's new initiative. After the Jalalabad offensive, Moscow's ambassador in Islamabad claimed that "facts are vindicating our perceptions... facts have left in shambles the perception of the Pakistani official circles." In response to a question regarding UN's role he reiterated Moscow's known position, "...bring in the UN for peace... let proximity talks be held... the first step is to bring them together."

Reportedly Moscow has also expressed its willingness to discuss the question of Najib's exit. But only as part of a comprehensive settlement.

Tehran's view of the UN peace initiative will influence the Khalili-led eight-party's attitude towards the initiative. Tehran will actively support the UN peace initiative. It has vehemently opposed any deal between the superpowers on the Afghan issue. However, Iranian officials claim that, "we are not opposed to UN participation...." In fact Tehran envisages a greater involvement of the UN. "Elections under the UN auspices can be with representation of the interested countries, the interim government, commanders, elders, PDPA (People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan) to determine Afghan opinion...," said an Iranian official.

The main trust of Kabul's diplomatic posturing since the departure of Soviet troops has been to call for a ceasefire and national reconciliation. Besides its "45 offers for national reconciliation" Kabul has repeatedly called for the UN to play a central role in initiating a political settlement. [passage omitted]

Irrespective of Moscow and Kabul willingness to support the UN diplomatic initiative now in the offing, the initiative has no chance of success without total commitment from Washington and Islamabad. [passage omitted]

Washington recognizes problems with its current policy of preference for a military-victory-based political solution and its confidence in AIG as the only legitimate political counterpoint to the Najib government. However, these is no indication that change in Washington's policy is imminent. No major policy reviews appear to be underway. [passage omitted]

In Islamabad the civilian leadership is unable to take the required bold initiative on its Afghan policy. The AIG split, the absence of unity among anti-Najib forces, de-escalation of fighting and Najib's survival in Kabul are all factors that present a reality which Pakistan's political leadership is not willing to face.

In a recent interview the prime minister repeated Islamabad's decision to continue support for the AIG. She claimed AIG is "more authoritative now" and that "the AIG is best framework with which to proceed for the time being."

The military leadership recognizes the importance of a political settlement. However General Beg in his September 13 comments on the Afghan issue appeared to believe that the process for bringing about a political settlement could not be initiated without Najib's ouster.

In Islamabad besides the Afghan policy-making process itself is in a mess. Who influences policy, who makes it and whose final decision counts is not clear.

Political leadership does not but Pakistani officials recognize Islamabad's dilemma with regards to its Afghan policy. They candidly admit that, "we are in a total mess... we have not had courage to come to terms with reality."

The political leadership's inability to take any initiative on the Afghan policy is widely attributed to various factors: fear that Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) propaganda that Islamabad is selling out the Mujahidin at the American behest may successfully create militant resentment against the government if it changes its present policy; the military's inclination to still go along with the military option and with AIG as the vehicle for any political settlement; and Washington's preference to continue with the existing policy. [passage omitted]

Without Islamabad's encouragement and advice majority of the AIG members will not agree to participate in the proposed "minimum structured forum." According to a member of the AIG, "most will oppose any change... becoming ministers they have reached the zenith of their political careers." [passage omitted]

Islamabad must recognize the obvious existence of other Afghan factions elibigle for participation in any discussion on the future of Afghanistan. This would include the Iran-based Mujahidin, the emigres, PDPA, Zahir Shah, the internal shuras and the commanders.

For too long Washington and Islamabad's lack of genuine commitment to a political settlement and the AIG's rejectionist posture has undermined all efforts to end the bloody war.

Islamabad's support for an intra-Afghan dialog will only be an extension of Pakistan's stated position that it favors a political settlement. It does not amount to betrayal of the Afghan people's right for self-determination. It does however, mean that Islamabad must convey to the AIG that in its present form it can no longer legitimately claim to represent the will of the majority of Afghan people.

Pakistani Embassy Statement on Al-Hussaini Murder

NC3110140089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Oct 89 p 2

[Text] Tehran—A section of the Iranian press has recently speculated about the alleged delay in punishing the culprits in the case pertaining to the martyrdom of 'Allamah Sayyid 'Arif al-Hussaini.

The Embassy of Pakistan appreciates the fact that these comments were made in the context of the special religious, spiritual and cultural bonds which exist between Pakistan and Iran.

However, the Embassy of Pakistan regrets that sometimes comments were made with inaccurate facts as well as incomplete understanding of Pakistan's judicial process.

The assassination of 'Allamah 'Arif al-Hussaini was a deep shock to all the people of Pakistan. Several arrests have already been made and vigorous investigations are being made to discover the entire background of this criminal act. In investigating a possible conspiracy leading to this murder, Pakistani law enforcement authorities have been extremely thorough. There should be absolutely no doubt that Pakistani courts, famous all over the world for their independence, would completely fulfill the needs of justice. The Pakistani judicial system does not provide for summary trials and the law must take its natural course. The time thus spent ensures that there is no miscarriage of justice and that no dark aspects of a criminal case remain hidden. The martyrdom of 'Allamah 'Arif Hussaini is a very grave matter and the state has a clear responsibility that this case is resolved completely and beyond any doubt.

Turkish Protest Over Islamic Headdress Noted

NC0111105289 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] According to the semiofficial ANATOLIA AGENCY, some 500 Ankara University students staged a sit in demonstration yesterday to protest efforts to prevent female students wearing the Islamic headdress from attending university classes. The report added that university officials have not allowed these students to attend classes for the last 3 days and that the students' action was aimed at persuading the officials to allow the female students to attend lectures without being forced to organize further demonstrations.

Departing Navy Commander Congratulates Shamkani

LD3110144789 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran Oct. 31, IRNA—Outgoing Navy commander Rear-Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan bid farewell to Navy personnel at the end of his tenure, in a ceremony Tuesday.

As per a decree issued by the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Monday, Malekzadegan was succeeded by 'Ali Shamkhani, a senior member of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC).

Rear-Admiral Shamkhani had previously served as commander of the IRGC ground forces and directed several victorious operations during the Iraqi aggression.

Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Brigadier General 'Ali Shahbazi speaking at the ceremony, said that Ayatollah Khamene'i had chosen Rear-Admiral Malekzadegan as his advisor.

General Shahbazi conveyed the leader's appreciations for Rear-Admiral Malekzadegan's services in successfully leading naval forces during his term of office. He further noted that appointing Rear-Admiral Shamkhani as the new commander of the naval forces was a practical indication of the unity of the Armed Forces. Rear-Admiral Malekzadegan congratulated the new Navy commander and wished him success.

Commentary Urges Expatriates To Return, Invest

NC3110125989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Oct 89 p 5

[Akhundzadeh Basti commentary: "Time To Return"]

[Text] Iran is a resourceful and rich country. The availability of different minerals, abundant water, favorable climatic conditions and fertile land are cited as the most important resources of the nation.

But the availability of the material resources are no match to the human resources of the country. Throughout the history it was and is the human factor that shapes and moulds the prosperous or disastrous path and destiny of nations.

With the advent of the revolution followed by an imposed war the country had to face a brain drain. A brief fact finding survey shows that many of them who left the country particularly the technicians, the scientists, the doctors and even the average persons were after a better scope and opportunity.

It is true that the country can do without them but one cannot remain indifferent to the pressing demands of hundreds of thousands of Iranians who wish to return and serve the country.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his press conference on Monday reiterated that there are no obstacles for Iranians to return home. But the question is will their return in any way help them or the country?

The experience of the past shows that in the absence of a well defined, well supported and strong center—to look after their problem—the issue may not be resolved.

Now that Iran is calling foreign investors and companies to invest and participate in the reconstruction programs of the country the Iranians abroad are the most eligible persons for the task.

It is estimated that the overall assets of Iranians abroad exceed 120 billion dollars. It is the time for the country to once again mobilize herself.

In the period of war the heroic people of Iran denied the enemies of their expansionist policy and preserved the territorial integrity of the country. The heroic people of Iran shall not allow the Iraqi regime to reach her aim in the process of negotiation.

The government has to redouble her efforts in mobilizing the nation. There are many Iranians who could not due to one reason or other serve the country during the period of active hostility. They should be given a chance to serve.

It is high time for the government to look into the matter seriously. This can be done through setting up a headquarters directly controlled by the president.

The facilities that have recently been introduced in customs formalities of the airport, relaxation on foreign exchange regulations, etc are welcome and positive steps.

The government within the frame and principles of the revolution can still take more steps for the benefit of the revolution and the country. But it is to be remembered that the human resources of the nation are the most valuable of all.

Editorial Welcomes Foreign Aid in Reconstruction

NC3110130089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Expertise Essential to Economic Growth"]

[Text] In his first major news conference with the international newsmen President Hashemi-Rafsanjani answered questions related to his political, economic and social plans for the country. In one part he said that the government has projected that between 15 to 20 billion dollars will be allocated to projects that involve international cooperation.

At the same time Dr. Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, head of the Iran's Central Bank in an interview announced that both private and government industrial units in the country will be entitled to benefit from the preferential currency provided by the Iranian banks.

Timely announcements by the president and head of the Central Bank are further signs of government's determination to implement the policy of increasing production. This policy that has been worked into the Five-Year Plan, and will be implemented very soon, can hopefully increase the participation of the private sector in the area of production. Assuming that this goal can be achieved then it is expected that alongside the increase in employment and creation of new jobs prices can be controlled as well. It is realistic to believe that this objective, however weighty, can still be achieved by the government if the recent economic reforms represent the framework of the future economic strategy as not a short-term measure but a total remedy to current economic problems. If so then these policies can contribute to the reduction and shrinking of the cash flow in the hands of the private sector.

The other major point to keep in mind is that the experiences gained during the first decade of the Revolution, should be utilized free from prejudices, to draw up the strategy of the country during the reconstruction years. Many times in the past we have claimed that there is enough expertise inside the country to build the seventh and eighth refineries in Bandar-e 'Abbas and Arak. We have been promised that our own experts with domestic technology are fully capable of conquering the mighty projects.

It is, therefore, only realistic to view projects such as those mentioned need international cooperation and can be used in our interest and should be given priority in the Five-Year Plan. [sentence as published] We should, however, insist on learning the technology required to carry through projects of this nature and at the same time train our own experts. To pay back the credits on these projects several methods including the payback through the production of these factories can be used.

Finally, it is evident that there are many countries which possess the technology needed for the reconstruction of the country and do not have any particular political

problems with the Islamic Republic. They are ready to participate in the reconstruction of Iran and we should take advantage of their willingness to do so.

TEHRAN TIMES Hails Investment in Oil Industry

NC3110125889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Investments in Oil Industries a Welcome Move"]

[Text] Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh's yesterday's announcement on the country's plan to spend the astronomical $13.4 billion in foreign currency alone on oil-related industries is indeed welcome. According to him the government will make this fund available to develop oil, gas and petrochemical industries within the next five years in the course of its integrated Five-Year Plan.

The plan which will soon be a hot topic for discussion at the Majlis (Parliament) has envisaged investments running to $8.4 billion in the oil industry, three billion on petrochemical projects and two billion for gas industries.

Measures to rightfully tap the yet largely unexploited gas resources and the rather backward petrochemical industries top the plan whose estimate for oil revenues stands at $76.8 billion over the next five years.

The announcement is welcome in view of the fact that the more capable and efficient the oil industries, the more revenue the country will have at its disposal. Especially when it comes to the petrochemical projects the move for improvement is absolutely unavoidable.

Meanwhile, the oil minister's statement on the significance of natural gas as a substitute for oil in the years to come was also quite interesting. Rich in gas Iran should make every possible effort to refit, update and modernize its gas facilities to be able to take up future challenges. This will certainly help the country to follow its course towards an economic upswing in the turbulent years ahead. Negligence in this issue will cost the country dearly leaving it financially strapped once the oil demand takes a downward trend.

Oil-related projects, however urgent they might be, should not overshadow efforts to develop non-oil revenues. The income from a rather large piece of the 'oil-cake' should go to the development of non-oil sectors if we wish to steer steadily and more peacefully and viably into the strife-laden world of tomorrow. We just have to carve out a niche for ourselves among the exporting countries and this will have to heavily draw on non-oil industries.

Aqazadeh also disclosed that the Iranian experts had refit the war-torn Abadan Oil Refinery in less than five months expending around $40 million only.

This has certainly been achieved only because of the very high morale the Iranian Muslim nation enjoys. The nation that has emerged out of some eight years of devastating imposed war unbowed thus disappointing all the mischievous powers who have left no stone unturned to see the country in tatters. Congratulations and more power to the Iranian experts and technicians.

Nepal

Government To Issue Treasury Bills, Bonds

BK3110014689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0131 GMT 31 Oct 89

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 31 (AFP)—The Nepalese Government, hard hit by India's seven-month trade blockade, plans to issue 170 million rupees (6.04 million U.S. dollars) of government bonds next month to curb a growing public deficit.

Of the total issue by the Nepal Rastra (Central) Bank, 50 million rupees (1.8 million dollars) will be in Treasury bills with a maturity of 90 days to be sold under sealed tender, a Finance Ministry official said.

The remaining 120 million rupees (4.27 million dollars) will be issued as government bonds with a 50-year maturity carrying between 15 and 16 per cent interest. The bonds will be sold on the open market, the official said. The entire offer will be purely domestic.

Another 800 million rupees (28.5 million dollars) of debt is scheduled for sale in the next nine months, about 160 million rupees (5.7 million dollars) in Treasury bills and the remaining 640 million rupees (22.8 million dollars) in bonds, the official said.

Kathmandu has followed a stringent two-year structural adjustment programme backed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), using macro-economic policy to control economic growth. However, "the trade blockade of India against Nepal has caused a great economic disorder," the official said.

Since the 1978 trade and transit treaties expired on March 23, India has levied customs duties of 100 to 155 per cent on basic industrial products, which had previously been given preferential access to the Indian market. After the treaties expired, India cut trade relations.

Officials from Nepal's Commerce Ministry say trade is a temporary issue and is subject to change, but transit is a right for landlocked countries and should be subject to a long term agreement. But no trade and transit treaty could be concluded within eight months of the expiry of the 1978 treaties, so India continued its trading relationship with Nepal under its own terms.

The trade blockade has slashed the availability of fuel oil and coal and more than 80 per cent of the country's

industries have been forced to shut down. The remaining industries are being run at just 20 per cent capacity, officials said.

The trade blockade has cut the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), or the total value of its goods and services, by more than three billion rupees (106.8 million dollars) in the last four months of the 1988 fiscal year which ended July 15.

A sharp drop in non-agricultural production more than cancelled out the strong growth of the agricultural sector, causing the GDP to plummet to 1.5 per cent drop against an estimated growth rate of 5.3 per cent.

Economic analysts here say if the current impasse with India continues for another six months, GDP could register a minus growth rate of 1.5 to two per cent during the 1989 fiscal year which runs to mid-July, 1990.

In order to narrow the deficit, the Nepalese Government has decided to cut 1.5 billion to two billion rupees (53.4 million to 71.2 million dollars), or almost 10 per cent, from the budget allocation for this year, a Finance Ministry official said.

The government has instructed all ministries and departments to cancel all non-productive and uneconomical infrastructure development financed by the public exchequer.

"The committed expenditure for the big hydropower projects, industries, or the important highways financed under the foreign aid and loans will not, however, be affected under the current curtailment of the expenditure," the official said.

Pakistan

Debate, Voting on No-Confidence Motion Detailed

Speaker Outlines Procedures

BK3110154989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The entire process of debate and voting on the no-confidence motion will be completed tomorrow. This was stated by National Assembly Speaker Malik Mairaj Khalid in Islamabad today. He told the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN that the procedure for the debate has been finalized through consultations with the ruling and opposition parties. Four members each from the ruling and opposition parties will speak on the motion, and each member will be given 15 minutes to express his views.

The speaker announced that the National Assembly meeting will be held at 1000 [0500 GMT], and soon after a recitation from the holy Koran, debate on the motion will begin. A member of the opposition will deliver his speech first, and then three more opposition members will take the floor. Later, four members of the ruling party will express their views against the no-confidence resolution.

Malik Mairaj Khalid said that immediately after speeches on the motion, the voting will take place, and the result will be announced after the votes are counted.

Answering a question, Malik Mairaj Khalid said if the leader of the house and the leader of the opposition wish to speak, they can speak for more than 15 minutes.

The speaker expressed the hope that the two sides will demonstrate decency and high moral standards in their respective speeches and will contribute to the promotion of the constitutional and democratic system in the country. He expressed the confidence that the proceedings of the house will take place in an atmosphere of peace and goodwill. The speaker said the elected representatives should establish an example of high parliamentary tradition and live up to the expectations of the people.

The speaker said that during his meetings with the members of the ruling and opposition parties in connection with the no-confidence motion, some useful proposals were made by the opposition representatives regarding the conduct of the proceedings of the National Assembly on the day of debate and voting on the resolution. He later exchanged views with the ruling party representatives on those proposals. They fully agreed to those proposals.

Malik Mairaj Khalid said it is a matter of great satisfaction that the two sides are fully aware of the requirements for upholding the dignity and sovereignty of this august elected body. He expressed the hope that the National Assembly members will play their historic role in promoting constitutional democracy in the country.

Explaining the procedure for voting, the National Assembly speaker said that before the beginning of the voting, bells will be rung for 5 minutes, after which all lobby doors will be closed. The members present in the house will be asked to go to the lobby gate to register their votes. After all members willing to register their votes have exercised their right to vote, the list of votes will be brought to the speaker's desk for the necessary counting and announcement of results.

Radio Pakistan's correspondent says the government is taking strict security measures in the Islamabad area, especially within a 1-mile radius of Parliament House, to provide protection to National Assembly members and conduct the voting in a disciplined and orderly manner. The local administration has removed all political banners, posters, and pictures from the area.

All cards and passes already issued for the current session of the National Assembly will not be valid tomorrow. Only senators, chief ministers, provincial ministers, provincial assembly speakers and deputy speakers, diplomatic representatives, and relevant senior

government employees will be allowed to enter the house bearing cards issued by the National Assembly Secretariat today. New cards are also being issued to newsmen who will report the proceedings of the house. All visitors and newsmen who have been given new cards have been asked to take their seats in their boxes and galleries by 9:30 in the morning, because no one will be allowed to enter the house after this stipulated time.

Punjab Chief Comments on Motion

BK3110163189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Addressing a news conference at Murree today, the PDP [Pakistan Democratic Party] chief, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, said: We believe in democratic and in constitutional process for the change of the government.

The IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad—Islamic Democratic Alliance] chief and Punjab chief minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif, said he will bring all the supporting MNA's [members of National Assembly] in the National Assembly tomorrow for the no-confidence motion.

Debate on Motion Against Bhutto Begins

BK0111061689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] The National Assembly session resumed in Islamabad at 1000 [0500 GMT], and a debate on the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto introduced by the Combined Opposition Party [COP] is now going on. Radio Pakistan's parliamentary correspondent reports from the assembly hall that members of the COP and the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and its supporting members are attending the session.

After a recitation from the holy Koran, Speaker Malik Mairaj Khalid requested that opposition leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi begin the debate on the resolution. In his speech, Jatoi explained the circumstances which necessitated the introduction of the no-confidence motion. According to him, the PPP government has failed in all aspects of national life, including the economy, prices, law and order, employment, and corruption. Jatoi reiterated the opposition's claims that the Pakistan People's Party had tried to destabilize the [opposition-run] Punjab and Baluchistan provincial governments and that it had formed the government in Northwest Frontier Province with the help of the Forward Bloc of the Islamic Democratic Alliance. He also mentioned the People's Program [socioeconomic development program of the PPP] and said it is tantamount to interfering in the provincial autonomy.

Four members from both sides will speak on the no-confidence motion. After the conclusion of the debate on the motion, voting will take place.

Radio Pakistan's representative reports the votes will be cast in lobby of the assembly hall.

Bhutto Survives No-Confidence Vote

BK0111083589 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] The National Assembly today defeated the no-confidence resolution moved by the combined opposition against the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto. The opposition was able to muster only 107 votes, against 119 required for the resolution to get through.

Announcing the result, the speaker, Malik Mairaj Khalid, expressed his confidence that the result of the vote will be accepted by both sides with (?magnanimity) in the democratic spirit and there will be no ill will.

Speaking after the announcement of the result, the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, thanked the house for once again reposing its confidence in her and said she considered it a great honor. The prime minister said she was conscious of the responsibility and obligations this imposed on her. She reiterated that it is the solemn duty of myself and the democratic government to live up to the expectations and aspirations of the people of Pakistan.

Turning to the opposition, she said: Let there be no ill will or malice toward each other and let us take the results in a democratic spirit. At the same time, she appealed to the opposition not to oppose her government for the sake of opposition and instead join hands with her in strengthening the democratic process, democratic institutions, and dignity of the parliament. Although the no-confidence resolution is a democratic measure, she reminded that it is no joke as it shakes the entire nation and the working of the country's machinery. It also gives rise to fears about the democratic institutions and has repercussions for the integrity and unity of the country.

Earlier, the speaker, Malik Mairaj Khalid, invited the leader of the opposition, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, to initiate the discussion on the resolution. Mr Jatoi explained the circumstances which motivated the opposition to move the no-confidence resolution. He accused the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government of making efforts to destabilize provincial governments in the Punjab and Baluchistan. He maintained that PPP government had failed in all its policies.

He was also critical of government's policies on Afghanistan and India and accused it of trying to introduce one-party system in the country.

Mawlana Fazlur Rahman of JUI [Jamiyat-i 'Ulema-i Pakistan—Assembly of Pakistani Clergy] maintained that the PPP government had gone back on its commitments with other parties, mainly on its alliances with the Awami National Party and the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]. They also failed to take steps to inculcate Islamic injunctions and to further the cause of democracy and justice.

Dr Imran Farooq of the MQM speaking on the no-confidence resolution explained why they broke off their alliance with the PPP and said the PPP did not fulfill its commitments with them. He complained of the unfair treatment and attacks on the MQM leaders, which according to him, were officially inspired.

Syeda Abida Hussain, independent, said the PPP government had not been able to provide effective leadership to the country. She said if the house reposes confidence in the prime minister, she must rise above everything with large heart and take this house along with her and not divide or polarize it.

Later, the speaker the read the prorogation order.

Bhutto, Jatoi Comment on Result

BK0111094989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0900 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The National Assembly today defeated the no-confidence resolution moved by the combined opposition against the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto. The opposition was able to muster only 107 votes against 119 required for the resolution to get through. [passage omitted]

Speaking after the announcement of the result, the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, thanked the house for once again reposing its confidence in her and said she considered it a great honor. [passage omitted]

Turning to the opposition, she said: Let there be no ill will or malice toward each other, and let us take the results in a democratic spirit. [passage omitted]

She appealed to the opposition to review as to what should be their role in the evolution of democracy in future, because democracy is indispensable to us. She expressed the hope that the the objectionable process of transactions and trading on the assembly members, which began before the voting, will not be repeated. She expressed the hope that the opposition will demonstrate a positive spirit, which will help serve Pakistan, its people, Constitution, and democracy. She appreciated the voting process, which was completed in a satisfactory and pleasant manner by the speaker, despite the tension and uneasiness created by the no-confidence motion.

Conceding defeat, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi [leader of the combined opposition] said we wholeheartedly accept the decision of the House. He said the no-confidence resolution is a normal process in the democratic system of government and there should not be any bitterness among us. He described it as a major step toward the direction of resolving the issues constitutionally.

Further on Jatoi's Remarks

BK0111123589 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 1 Nov 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The prime minister of Pakistan, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has narrowly survived the vote of no-confidence in her government. One hundred and seven members of Parliament voted for it, just 12 less than the opposition needed to bring down Ms Bhutto's government. Lyce Ducet sent us this report from the Pakistan capital, Islamabad:

[Begin Ducet recording] After the motion was defeated, Prime Minister Bhutto took the floor and appealed to her allies and members of Parliament. There was no ill will nor malice, she said, it was time to coolly and calmly consider the future Pakistan wanted, a no-confidence motion with the democratic process, but she warned it was not the process to be taken lightly. Such a motion, she said, gives rise to fears about her democratic institutions. It could shake the entire nation. Her comments were made amidst the opposition's earlier statements that if this motion failed, they would bring another and another until they brought the government down.

The opposition leader, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, told the house he accepted today's verdict but then adopted an adversarial tone, saying if all the members of Parliament had been here today, the results would have been different. His comments and Ms Bhutto's on acrimonious speech during today's debate underline how other tests of strength are still to come. [end recording]

Sind Chief Pledges To Maintain Law, Order

BK3110155789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah said law and order in the province will be maintained at all costs, and every citizen will be given protection without discrimination. Speaking to newsmen in Karachi today, he said the appropriate officials have been directed to maintain peace and harmony.

Referring to the agreement between the Muhajir Qaumi Movement and Islamic Democratic Party, the chief minister said this agreement has no connection with law and order in the province.

Court Issues Order Against Legislator's Detention

BK3110160389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Today, the Lahore High Court ordered the appointment of a bailiff to produce the National Assembly member, Khurshid Alam Cheema, who has allegedly been detained illegally by the Punjab local bodies minister, Chaudhary Parvez Ilahi, in his residence in Lahore. The bailiff searched the entire house of the provincial minister but could not find the National Assembly member.

Sri Lanka

Government Protests IPKF Training of Tamil Youths

BK0111105589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0914 GMT 1 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 1 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka has expressed serious concern over the training of boys as young as fourteen-year-olds for the so called Tamil National Army. The Government of Sri Lanka has brought to the notice of the Indian Government through diplomatic channels the training of youngsters by the Indian Peace Keeping Force [IPKF] and their continuance in the building up of a proposed 30,000 strong Tamil National Army from amongst boys conscripted by the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] and the ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front], states the 'OBSERVER' quoting official sources. Parents in the north and the east had complained to the authorities that their sons were being forcibly abducted and conscripted for training at IPKF camps and camps set up close to IPKF camps in the north and the east.

BBC's Colombo-based correspondent Chris Nuttall who visited some camps in the Trincomalee area last week reported that the youth dressed in shorts and tee shirts were going through military drills crawling on all fours and their bellies, firing guns without ammunition and crying out, "Eelam, Eelam." He said he had met boys as young as fourteen-year-old at the camps at various levels of training, the 'OBSERVER' report states.

Communique Notes 16 'Hardcore Subversives' Killed

BK0111105989 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0910 GMT 1 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 1 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—A government communique issued today states that a special commando unit conducted cordon and search operations and special investigations for the last 2 weeks in the Central Province areas of Gampola, Pussellawa and Kotmale. During the operations, 16 hardcore subversives were shot and killed and several taken in for questioning.

The commandos also recovered from subversive hideouts nine shotguns, revolvers, locally made shotguns, grenades, several rounds of ammunition, national identity cards, a large quantity of wrist watches, black jersies and knives.

Security forces conducting cordon and search operations at Thaliyadola and Wagolla, in the Sabaragamuwa Province, arrested eight subversives and recovered 75 national identity cards.

The communique further states that a security forces mobile patrol fired at a gang of three who had stopped a SLTB [Sri Lanka Transport Board] bus at Dowa in Badulla and robbed cash and other items from the passengers, while two members of the gang were arrested, the other escaped.

During a search operation in Kandy, security forces recovered galkattas [country-made pistols], Army belts, police uniforms and shoes from a hideout at Bothotawatte, the communique states.